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AND ENTERTAINMENT

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THE TIMES



INTERNATIONAL
EDITION

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1992

45p

Revenge rockets fall on Galilee village

Israel promises all-out reprisals for death of girl

BY RICHARD BEESTON AND ALI JABER

ISRAEL was poised yesterday to launch an all-out attack on Hezbollah strongholds in southern Lebanon, after a rocket killed the first Israeli civilian near the Lebanon border for more than a decade.

The victim, a girl of five, died when a Katyusha rocket hit her home in the western Galilee farming community of Granot Hagallil. Three members of her family were also wounded. The Hezbollah party has, however, denied responsibility for the attack.

The incident took place only hours after the six-day spate of intense fighting appeared to be drawing to a close with the withdrawal of Israeli forces from two Shia Muslim villages in southern Lebanon. The attacks and

reprisals had been prompted by Israel's assassination of Sheikh Abbas Moussawi, the Hezbollah leader, last Sunday.

After the 14-rocket salvo yesterday afternoon, a spokesman for the office of Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, predicted that the Israel Defence Force would eliminate "terror activities and the terrorists". Paris Bouez, the Lebanese foreign minister, said yesterday that Israel's assault on Lebanese territory on Thursday was intended to force Beirut to withdraw from the Middle East peace talks, which are due to resume in Washington on Monday.

Israel gunners retaliated against yesterday's rocket attack with a heavy bombardment of Hezbollah guerrillas in the adjacent villages of southern Lebanon. But Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, Hezbollah's mentor, said the party had not fired rockets towards Israel during five of the past six days. "The Muslim mujahedin only fired rockets during the confrontations of Thursday," he said.

His remarks coincided with reports in Beirut that Palestinian guerrillas loyal to Ahmed Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, were responsible for the rocket attacks. Mr Jibril, who receives strong support from Syria, had announced full mobilisation of his units to help the Lebanese Muslim fundamentalists against Israel.

Another statement by the Abu Nidal group - the Patah Revolutionary Council - also said that its facilities would be made available to Hezbollah. However, Nabih Berri, the leader of the mainstream Shia Amal movement, which opposes Palestinian involvement in the conflict in the south, appealed for an end to "the rocket attacks against the Jewish state".

Lebanese military sources raised doubts yesterday about whether Israeli troops had completely withdrawn from the Shia villages of Yafar and Kafra, which they seized on Thursday. "They redeployed

their tanks and troops in the hills overlooking the villages so they can check any guerrilla movements below," a military spokesman said. He also said Israel had massed troops and armour facing the town of Nabatiyeh, 30 miles south of Beirut.

General Yitzhak Mordechai, the head of Israel's northern command, made clear his government's attitude to yesterday's attack when he inspected the bomb site. "Israel will not tolerate firing into its territory and will choose the time and place in order to hit the terrorists."

However, Uri Or, the retired general who was his predecessor in the 1980s, said that there was little Israel could do to halt the Katyusha strikes. "It is impossible to guarantee that the firing will stop beyond the security zone and Israel, as long as we are not physically sitting in the field," he said. "It is difficult to locate Katyushas. You can come from Beirut to south Lebanon with mobile Katyushas on the roof of vehicles, stop for a moment, shoot a few rockets and return to Beirut."

The problem of locating and destroying the Katyusha rockets launch sites was highlighted on Thursday when two Israeli soldiers were killed and three others were wounded when they stormed the Shia villages in southern Lebanon in an operation commanded by General Ehad Barak, the Israeli chief of staff. Seven Lebanese guerrillas and two Lebanese civilians also died in the fighting.

Although there was only a muted response from political leaders to yesterday's attack on Israel, there is little doubt in government circles that Mr Shamir has no option but to respond harshly, particularly as he has focused his present election campaign on a promise to give Israel peace. He will be under particular scrutiny in the coming weeks, since his chief opponent is Yitzhak Rabin, the newly elected leader of the Labour party, who is also known for his tough handling of security.

Continued on page 16, col 1



Treasured moment: number 11 Downing Street had never seen anything quite like it. A piano, 20 ft square stage and six members of the English National Ballet were installed in the state drawing room for an exclusive performance before the Chancellor and his guests (Ali-

son Roberts writes). The dancers performed excerpts from *Swan Lake* and *Don Quixote* and the evening raised £20,000 for the baller's funds. Rosemary Lamont, a supporter of the company, said it was "the nicest thing I have had happen since I have been here". Norman

Lamont called the experience "totally terrific". Mr and Mrs Lamont are seen after the performance with two of the dancers, Maurizio Bellezza and Renata Calderini. Balloons limbered up on the landing using the banister as a barre and bouquets appeared from the wings

at the end of the performance. Among the 60 guests were Sir John Quinlan, chairman of Barclays Bank and Michael Newmarch, chief executive of the Prudential. A spokesman for the Treasury said: "It was a brief diversion before going back to work."

TODAY IN THE TIMES

IN THE PINK



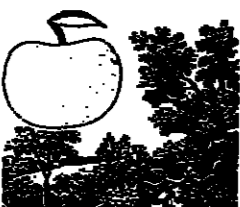
Under siege it may be, but hunting is still recruiting
Weekend Times
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IN THE DOCK



Alison Halford, police high-flyer, has become a feminist issue
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IN SEASON



Libby Purves on why she welcomes the urban hordes
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WEEKEND TIMES

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Institute of Chartered Accountants results are published on pages 29-31.
Results of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants' December examination will be published on Monday.



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Tories under pressure to revive the economy

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government came under renewed pressure to revive the economy last night after Neil Kinnock demanded an immediate cut in interest rates and the Confederation of British Industry reported little prospect of an end to the recession in four months.

The Labour leader's call, in a speech in which he accused tax-cutting ministers of approaching the election with the "economics of embezzlement", marked a significant shift in Opposition tactics in attacking the government's handling of the economy.

John Major stood by his assertion that in a recession it was right for the government to borrow to make room for

tax reductions. He shrugged off the morning poll showing Labour four points ahead.

On a tour of the East Midlands, Mr Major said: "At a time when the economy is slowing down, it is the right economic judgement to let borrowing grow rather than making artificial and panic changes in expenditure."

Mr Major also came under fire from the Thatcherite wing of the party. Cecil Parkinson, the former Tory party chairman, warned the cabinet against relaxing too far its financial control.

"The British public is not

Continued on page 16, col 7

United front, page 2

State cash aid to win Olympics

BY SHEILA GUNN AND JOHN GOODBODY

JOHN Major will next week promise money and full government backing for Manchester's bid to stage the Olympic Games in 2000.

The prime minister is preparing to announce a package of support on Wednesday after meeting Bob Scott, chairman of Manchester's application committee, and other officials at Downing Street. The package, which could total more than £300 million in grants and loans, will help the city to revive derelict sites and build new roads, sports facilities and an Olympic village.

For Mr Major, one of the scheme's appeals is understood to be an 80,000-seat football stadium that would be used by Manchester City.

Manchester lost to Atlanta in the competition to stage the 1996 Olympics. But since Britain has not hosted the games since 1948 and London has dropped out, the city is thought to stand a better chance in the next round, to be decided in September next year.

Details, page 36



Scott: meeting prime minister next week

Man held in hunt for Stephanie kidnapper

DETECTIVES investigating the kidnapping of Stephanie Slater and the murder of Julie Dart were questioning a man last night. Police arrested him at Newark in Nottinghamshire after receiving calls prompted by a recording of the kidnapper's voice broadcast on the BBC's *Crimewatch* programme.

Sources in Newark said that the man lives eight miles away at Sutton-on-Trent. Police were at his house last night. The man is understood to be a middle-aged craftsman. Police were arranging to transfer him to Birmingham, where the hunt for Stephanie Slater's kidnapper has been co-ordinated.

After the arrest, police sealed off the Swan and Salmon yard, the site of a former public house in the centre of Newark. A railway line runs only 200 yards from the site, which houses a sprinkling of small businesses including a workshop to which officers were said to be paying particular attention.

Police have been trying to identify the location where Miss Slater was held prisoner in a box for eight days. They believe that she was kept in a

warehouse, engineering shed, brickworks or a railway depot. Miss Slater, a Birmingham estate agent, has told detectives that she could hear trains and heavy vehicle movements twice a day. She occasionally heard voices nearby, but decided against shouting for help in case it should anger her kidnapper and further endanger her life.

The enquiry is being led by Tom Cook, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire police, who is also investigating the kidnapping and murder of Julie Dart last July. Miss Dart, aged 18, was abducted in Leeds and her body was subsequently dumped under a tree in a field near Grantham in Lincolnshire.

Yesterday afternoon, police said: "A man has been arrested and is being interviewed in connection with the Stephanie Slater kidnapping. He is being questioned in Newark."

The call that led to the arrest was one of about 1,200 that resulted from the BBC's *Crimewatch* programme on Thursday, which showed the artist's impression of the kidnapper and played a three-

minute recording of his telephone call giving instructions for the delivery of the £175,000 ransom money.

Police also asked viewers who thought they recognised the man whether he had access to a warehouse or workshop and the use of a ten or twelve-year-old red Metro. Miss Slater was taken home in such a car.

Among the calls were one from a prison officer claiming that the voice on the recording was that of an inmate released last year, one from a former prisoner who believed that he had served time with man in the 1960s, and one from someone who thought that he may have worked with him two years ago.

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INSIDE

Credit card fees go up

Barclays and National Westminster have confirmed that, to combat rising costs, they are increasing the fees they charge retailers for processing all credit card transactions.

The British Retail Consortium said it was amazed at the decision and would have to pass the rise on to customers. The Barclays' increase will cost retailers an extra 14p for every £100 of sales. Page 3

BCCI deal

The liquidator of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International has approved a compensation plan worth £2.28 billion with the government of Abu Dhabi. Page 18

SCHOOL FEES

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Thatcher gives silent support as rebels push for EC referendum



Thatcher: says public should be consulted

MARGARET Thatcher yesterday revived the split within the Conservative party over Europe by backing rebels demanding a referendum on the Maastricht deal. Although she did not speak, her presence during a Commons debate on a Tory backbench bill calling for a referendum was seen as tacit support for the move. During the debate following the outcome of the Maastricht summit last December Mrs Thatcher said the public needed to be consulted on the move towards a single currency and she is still believed to have serious reservations about the deal.

The referendum bill, sponsored by Richard Shepherd, Tory MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, fell when a motion to end the debate failed to get the requisite 100 MPs voting in favour of it. The "closure" motion was carried by 46 votes to three. Parliament will be asked to approve the summit deal after the general election but John Major, the prime minister, and Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, have opposed putting the issue to a national vote. Downing Street yesterday emphasised that Mr Major was strongly against a referendum. A spokesman said the Maastricht deal had been settled and debated at length. Most

Margaret Thatcher and Dennis Skinner have proved unlikely, if unsuccessful, allies in the fight for a national vote on the outcome of the Maastricht summit. **Jill Sherman and Robert Morgan report**

MPs considered Mr Major had secured a good settlement, he said. "There is no intention of there being a referendum on Maastricht." During a one-sided debate in which Euro rebels were given the opportunity to attack the EC, Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolton, said that political union spelt the domination of Europe by Germany.

Echoing the warning last year by Nicholas Ridley, the former trade and industry minister who lost his job after claiming political union was "a German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe", Mr Skinner said: "We fought six years against it in the second world war and what the people in here [the House] will do if they allow this political union to

take place is to allow the Germans to win when they lost in 1945."

Moving the second reading of his bill, Mr Shepherd said the Maastricht agreement provided for "a significant transfer of power from this country". It would hinder "the ability of this House to regulate the affairs of our people".

Tristan Garel-Jones, a Foreign Office minister, said a referendum would be an abdication of the responsibility of the House of Commons and the government.

Tory anti-Europeans nevertheless tried to exploit the division in the party by demanding Britain's withdrawal from the exchange-

rate mechanism. The Conservative European Reform Group yesterday published a paper warning of the dangers of fixing an artificial level for currency, saying: "What we must do is to work for a situation when the pound could again be permitted to find its own value." Sir Teddy Taylor, the group secretary, said: "As far as the exchange mechanism is concerned we could withdraw tomorrow."

The paper urges the prime minister to insist that the UK should not have to contribute to convergence cash to allow other member states to move to a single currency.



Skinner: fears German domination in Europe

Prime minister launches campaign in Scotland

Major seeks a united front

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND SHEILA GUNN

JOHN Major will today deliver an impassioned defence of the ancient union between England and Scotland in an attempt to shore up the Conservative party's crumbling support north of the border and to stem the slide to independence.

The prime minister's speech to prospective Tory parliamentary candidates in Glasgow will mark the opening of a concerted cabinet campaign over the next few weeks to rescue the Tories from their standing as Scotland's third biggest party.

In a move underlining the seriousness with which Mr Major views the independence campaign, nine cabinet ministers will visit Scotland to warn voters that any attempt to set up an assembly or devolve power would fracture the union.

The Conservative counter-offensive comes against the background of opinion polls showing a surge in support for the Scottish nationalists. Between a third and a half of Scots want independence and both Labour and the Liberal Democrats are enthusiastically backing plans for a tax-raising assembly in Edinburgh.

Mr Major fears that if he wins the election but suffers further losses among his dwindling band of nine MPs, out of a total of 72 in Scotland, pressure for constitutional change could become

unstoppable. His advisers said yesterday that he was devoting considerable time and energy to a speech that would highlight the "passion and conviction" behind his belief that the continuation of the union is as much in England's interests as Scotland's. He was said to believe that the future of the union transcends party politics and one side said: "He believes that his party is a unionist party and that it should fight for the union."

Growing numbers of Tory MPs, especially on the right of the party, have been arguing that the Conservatives should safeguard their Westminster majority by reducing the number of Scottish MPs and loosening their ties with the country.

Mr Major believes the

surge in support for some form of home rule has occurred because the Scots have been sold on the prize of independence without being told the price.

His speech will highlight the costs in terms of lost subsidies and inward investment and higher taxes and unemployment. He will say that Britain's international standing would be diminished by a break-up of the United Kingdom and its seat on the United Nations security council could be jeopardised.

Mr Major is expected to choose Scotland for the only overnight stop in his election campaign. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, and Michael Heseltine, the environment

secretary, are among the cabinet heavyweights preparing to reinforce the prime minister's warnings.

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, will try to fend off the case for devolution when the Commons grand committee on Scottish affairs holds a special sitting in Edinburgh on Monday to debate the constitution.

Tom King, the defence secretary, visited Aberdeen yesterday to warn Scottish voters that support for the Scottish nationalists' demands for independence would have a "catastrophic effect" on Britain's defences. "If the SNP ever had its way, at a stroke Scotland would be no better off on defence than, say, Austria or Finland," he said.

The Scottish perspective on defence would be reduced from full participation through the union to nothing more than internal security and local defence. He added: "Vote SNP and you ultimately say goodbye to the Rosyth base, RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leuchars. What the SNP forgets is that all their lobbying for bases, units and factories only makes sense in the context of the union."

An independent Scotland would put at risk 45,000 jobs in the defence industries north of the border, he added. The damage to Scotland's defences from Labour and Liberal Democrat policies would be almost as bad.

SNP issues budget

The Scottish National party yesterday unveiled its proposed budget covering income tax and national insurance in an independent Scotland (Kerry Gill writes).

The SNP said it would introduce a basic rate of income tax of 20p on the first £3,000 of taxable earnings after allowances. This would be paid for by abolishing the upper limit on national insurance contributions on salaries over £390 a week.

Publication of the figures

was aimed at countering the Conservative claim that independence would mean higher taxation. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said that the vast majority of people would pay less and that there would be no overall rise in personal or business taxation.

Alex Neil, the SNP's shadow chancellor, said: "Only those on high incomes will be expected to contribute more by paying national insurance on the whole of their salary. Just like everybody else."



Election footing: John Major shed his shoes yesterday to comply with Asian custom when he had tea with Selina Patel, aged nine, and her family at their home in Leicester while touring marginal constituencies in the city

Labour adds to poll tax woe

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR sought yesterday to capitalise on the Conservatives' continuing difficulties over the poll tax by claiming that every bill would include a "government incompetence surcharge" this year.

Bryan Gould, shadow environment spokesman, said that Thursday's High Court ruling that councils could not

use computer records as evidence of non-payment would throw local government into turmoil. The debate could have been avoided if the government had accepted Labour's offer to rush a short bill through parliament to give councils the right to rely on computer evidence.

"The ruling has brought

home once again the incompetence of the government in refusing to close this loophole when we first warned them about it," he said. "Next year's bills will have a government incompetence surcharge as councils seek to recoup the money John Major's incompetence has stopped them collecting this year."

Mr Gould was speaking at a London press conference to launch a survey results which he said showed that Labour councils were taking tougher action against poll tax defaulters than those controlled by the Tories.

The survey found that since the poll tax was introduced in April 1990 Labour councils had issued 3.3 million summonses and obtained 2.5 million court orders against defaulters. Over the same period Tory councils had issued 1.4 million summonses and obtained 1 million orders, while Liberal Democrat councils had issued 571,000 summonses and won 378,000 orders. Top of Labour's list was the London borough of Haringey which had issued 149,500 summonses.

Mr Gould said: "Ministers are fond of blaming Labour councils for the high levels of non-payment. This survey nails that myth. If it were not for the heroic efforts of Labour councils local government finance would have collapsed long ago."

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, said that officials in Labour councils were having to take action because their own councillors had urged people not to pay the community charge.

Meanwhile Portsmouth city council yesterday adjourned the cases of 17,104 people who have been summonsed for non-payment after legal advice following the High Court ruling on computer evidence.

Anarchic spirit may beat circus collapse

By PETER VICTOR

SOMETHING new, outrageous and probably quite dangerous is expected to rise from the ashes of the anarchic and metallic mêlée that was Circus Archaos, the multinational troupe that collapsed this week.

Circus International, the British company behind Archaos, founded by the Frenchman Pierrot Pillot-Bidon, has gone into liquidation with losses running into hundreds of thousands of pounds. BATR, its French counterpart, was expected last night to follow suit.

Archaos had a chequered career based to no small extent on astute PR marketing and media hysteria. Chainsaw juggling, one of the most frequently mentioned acts in its repertoire, was a relatively rare occurrence. But the stories guaranteed an audience. The

Archaos shows featured nudity, noise, stunts involving motor-cycles, cars, lorries, violence, danger and humour.

Despite frequent full houses, most recently in London before Christmas on a derelict site near Battersea bridge, the show suffered a number of disasters, according to Mark Burkowski, its press agent. A 60ft tent blew away before an appearance in Dublin and cost £60,000 to restore. Shows in the United States lost money.

At its height Archaos employed nearly 200 people, ran two circuses, a television company, a theatre set builder and a circus school. All may not be lost, however. Mr Burkowski predicted that the show's founder would be back with a vengeance. "Pierrot Bidon is a genius. He will rise again, whatever he might do."

£11,700 for mother of crash man

A mother who still mourns a son killed in a road accident more than six years was yesterday awarded £11,764 damages by the High Court. It was later disclosed that she had rejected an offer of £25,000 to settle out of court.

Jay Calascione, aged 54, of Battle, East Sussex, now faces having to pay part of the costs of her damages action because the award is less than the sum offered earlier. She is expected to end up with only £6,500.

Mrs Calascione sued over the death of her son Simon, aged 20, just before Christmas 1985 when a car driver crashed into his motorcycle on a blind bend. The motorist was later fined £250 for careless driving. The court heard that one of the main causes of her anger and grief was that he had not been banned from driving.

The damages awarded against the driver's insurers included £5,000 for the "post traumatic stress disorder" that Mrs Calascione suffered as a result of the death. Mr Justice French judge rejected her claim for extra compensation for the "pathological grief reaction" that she is said to continue to suffer.

Mrs Calascione said afterwards: "Do you recall the finding for Sara Keays — £105,000 for reputation — and for a life, not a penny. It's not stopping here. I propose to appeal. I will take it to the top."

Sentences cut

Jail sentences on two men who took part in a homosexual orgy that led to the death of Jason Swift, aged 14, were reduced by the Court of Appeal. Sidney Cooke and Steven Barrell were sentenced to 19 years and 13½ years respectively in May 1989. The court held that they would not have dealt with so severely had the full activities of another man been known. Cooke's sentence was cut to 16 years and Barrell's to ten.

Muslim decade

Muslims in Britain will today launch their decade of Islamic revivalism to coincide with the Christian decade of evangelism. Dr Zaki Badawi, chairman of the Imams and Mosques Council, said young Muslims would be selected "to carry the torch and guide believers into the right path". He added: "We are raising this, not in confrontation but in collaboration with the Christian decade."

Crash damages

A football enthusiast who suffered severe brain damage when a coach carrying England supporters crashed in Spain is to receive a structured settlement for damages likely to run into many millions of pounds. Andrew Routledge, aged 24, of Tilehurst, Berkshire, was hurt in 1987 when the coach crashed near Burgos. The settlement is against the coach's owner and driver.

England win

The England chess team beat The Netherlands by 3½ points to ½ in the fifth round of the international speed tournament at Cannes. Results (England first): Nunn beat Timman; Adams beat Piket; Chandler drew with Van der Wiel; Hodgson beat Sosonko. Scores, with one round left: England, 15 points out of 20; US, 12½; The Netherlands, 9½; France, 3.

CORRECTION

Last week's Saturday Review said that, four years ago, Frank Bough "faced charges for possession of cocaine". He did not. We apologise to Mr Bough for the error.

No-one takes off more.

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'Smelly' rapist caught with help of FBI is jailed for 13 years

BY PETER VICTOR

A RAPIST who terrorised and humiliated his victims and who was caught after FBI officers helped to build up a profile of him from descriptions of his attacks was jailed for 13 years yesterday by the Central Criminal Court.

Michael Musgrove, aged 21, described by his victims as smelly and spotty and by his former colleagues as a pervert, admitted raping three women and indecently assaulting two others.

For the first time in a rape investigation, FBI officers were asked to help to analyse information gathered from the victims of 40 sex attacks in Essex, the court was told. Scotland Yard said that the FBI had been asked to help because of its greater experience in profiling serial sex attackers.

Interviews with the victims — usually slim and blonde — established that the attacker was spotty, with a distinctive rancid, unwashed smell and that he took pleasure in humiliating them. He called his victims "whores and slags" and forced them to say they were enjoying being attacked, the court was told.

Work colleagues, who recalled that he rarely washed, nicknamed him "Mad Micky" and "The Perv" because of his remarks about schoolgirls and his attitude to women. He spoke of women

as something to be used. He was unpopular, a loner and sex was his main topic of conversation, the court was told.

Musgrove, whose younger brother is also a convicted rapist, left a trail of clues at the scenes of his crimes. But his DNA profile could not be matched with known sex offenders because he had no criminal record. He was caught when a burglary went wrong. Michael Stuart-Moore, QC, for the prosecution, said.

The court was told that he attacked a 21-year-old prostitute in May 1990 after breaking into a house in Ilford, Essex. He telephoned a massage parlour from the house, pretending to be a client. When the woman arrived he raped her at knife point. He



Allen: praised by judge for leading police hunt

did the same to another prostitute on June 18.

At a flat in Ilford, three weeks after the first rape, he attacked a 39-year-old public relations manager, forcing her to say that she enjoyed it as he raped her. As a result of the ordeal the woman is so frightened that even going into her garden is "torture," the court was told. She described changing overnight from a confident and articulate person to one "who found it difficult to go out just into the garden, even in daylight".

Musgrove had "taken away her privacy, her security, and her self-respect without giving it a second thought", she said.

In July 1990 Musgrove burgled a house in Dagenham where a girl aged 15 was sleeping downstairs. He forced her but when she awoke, screaming and struggling, he realised that there were other occupants in the house and fled. Neighbours who had seen him lurking in the area telephoned police who caught him after a chase. Because he had no criminal record he was granted bail until his court appearance.

Two weeks later, while on bail, he attacked a housewife, aged 32, in Waltham Abbey as she was taking a short cut through a field to go shopping. She fought back and sent him reeling with a powerful kick between the legs. Mr Stuart-Moore said. All of his victims picked him out at identity parades.

William Clegg, QC, for the defence, said that Musgrove had been experimenting with drugs and could not remember much about the attacks. "He will not remain an indefinite danger to women," Mr Clegg said. The court was told that Musgrove married Michelle Bailey, his girl friend, while on remand in prison and that she was standing by him.

Mr Justice Hidden praised the police team, led by Det Supt Russ Allen, for the massive effort they put in to capture the attacker.

He told Musgrove as sentenced him that only his youth and the fact he had pleaded guilty had saved him from a life term. "The simple truth is you let your inhibitions be swept away by indulging in drug abuse," the judge said. "You planned your campaign with care, ingenuity and persistence. You subjected all of them to terror and obscene humiliation."

Police chief urges manifesto scrutiny

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE leader of Britain's chief constables yesterday warned the public to look carefully at manifesto plans for law and order in the run-up to the general election to see whether or they were as new as politicians claimed.

The warning came from Brian Johnson, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and chief constable of Lancashire, in a letter sent to national newspaper editors whose papers have reported that the government may promise a shake-up of the police service. Mr Johnson said that the proposals hinted at, including changes in management and new forms of local policing and shift patterns, were not new ideas but "repeated demands made by the police or examples of current practice within the service".

He said: "You will no doubt receive many edicts on law

and order from various political groups... I would just like to remind you readers that in police work there is a wealth of difference between rhetoric and reality."

It was over-simplistic to feel that police had had it all their own way for a decade and that "the rest is up to us".



Johnson: rhetoric and reality may differ

The mayor's number is up

BY TIM JONES

A LABOUR-controlled council in Wales that attempted to create for itself a status symbol more common to pop stars and captains of industry than to civic affairs has re-aligned its political thinking after being warned to mend its ways.

The burghers of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, centre of Gower borough council, were delighted when they acquired for £140 from a government agency the number plate JIO GWR for their official Ford Scorpio limousine. The personalised touch greatly pleased the councillors, who considered that,

with a bit of tinkering, it could be used to advertise the borough. Council workmen were ordered to move the 'O' a few inches to the right, and the mayor, Colin Evans, was delighted to be chauffeured around on his official duties in a car that bore the number JIO GWR.

Unfortunately, the police were not amused and the council was told to change the plate within 14 days or face prosecution. Frantic meetings led to what councillors hope will be a compromise, and the mayor's car now carries the number plate JI O GWR.

In the view of the South Wales police, the new num-

ber plate may now be legal. Supt Tony Sullivan said: "We do not approve of any motorists trying this sort of wheeze, whether they are mayors or not. Number plates are there for identification and not as status symbols." He said the council would have been taken to court if it had not complied. Mr Evans said: "We were delighted to obtain the number plate and certainly had no intention of breaking the law by altering it. The police in this area do seem to be having a crack-down on personalised plates although the law does seem to be a bit vague."

Dead girl's stepfather abused boy

BY PETER DAVENPORT

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Now watch it take off.

After flying spectacularly across your TV screens the new Sunny GTI has landed at your local Nissan dealer.

With a 2.0 litre twin-cam 16 valve engine delivering 141 bhp, it can reach 60 mph in 6.8 seconds (according to What Car?). And like all Sunnys the GTI is fitted with a catalytic converter. Intelligent two-stage, speed related, shock absorbers ensure the ideal balance between ride and handling.



Whilst A.B.S. brakes give outstanding control during heavy braking. The paint-work has to be seen to be believed. Body panels use laser-etched steel, the perfect surface for high gloss paint—the result is a finish to end all finishes. And for £14,950 you can take off in one.

Phone 0800 777 200 for the address of your authorised dealer. He will be happy to arrange a test drive. The new Sunny GTI. Now all over the country.



Model shown is Sunny 2.0 GTI. Price includes car tax and VAT but excludes delivery charge of £375 (covering delivery to dealer, full tank of petrol and number plates) and road fund licence.

Surgeons operating at weekends to beat waiting list deadline

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

OPERATING theatres which normally stand idle at weekends will be open this morning as hospitals try to reduce surgery waiting lists.

Health service managers are having to pay premium rates to nursing staff and doctors to meet the deadline imposed by the government's patient's charter, which guarantees treatment within two years for all patients from April 1.

The scale of the challenge is daunting. The number of two-year waiting lists fell from 80,000 in March 1989 to 50,000 by March 1991. But by the end of last year there were still 29,000 patients to clear in the three months to March 31, more than twice the number cut in the previous three months, which was itself a record. Hospitals have

been putting on extra operating sessions and paying medical staff overtime to get the patients treated. There are due to be at least a dozen operations this morning at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, where Saturday surgery sessions have been run every weekend since before Christmas with medical staff paid at NHS rates.

At the Lister Hospital, in northwest Hertfordshire, 12 patients are to have wisdom teeth extracted under general anaesthetic at a cost allocated by the health authority of £200 a case. Kate McMaster, assistant director for surgical specialties, said it was "not as cost effective as doing them on the main list".

Similar weekend sessions are being run at hospitals in

most regions. Most long wait patients require plastic surgery, of which between 20 and 30 per cent are cosmetic cases, drawing criticism that the rush to treat them is displacing needier patients. Others are waiting for cataract operations, hip replacements and oral surgery.

Hospitals are paying for the extra work with funds allocated from the government's £39 million waiting list fund. Stoke Mandeville, where "several hundred" patients have waited over two years, mostly for plastic surgery, has offered patients faster treatment at hospitals in London, paid for with a £300,000 allocation from the waiting list fund. Some patients have been sent to private units nearby where they are operated on by Stoke Mandeville surgeons paid at private rates, according to Ken Cunningham, the general manager.

Health authority managers claim that once they have cleared the two-year lists they can prevent waiting times growing again and even continue the downward trend. But John Yates, former adviser to the health department who resigned last year, said that once lists were reduced there was no mechanism to keep them there.

In the West Midlands, where he is now in charge of the waiting list initiative, hospital specialists receive a fee for each case treated from their waiting lists, ranging from £350 for general surgery to £715 for orthopaedic surgery, and are paid a bonus of £5,000 a quarter when they have no patients waiting longer than one year. The number of patients waiting more than a year has been halved since March last year to 10,000 as a result of surgeons doing more work, targeting those who have waited longest and weeding out those who no longer need treatment.

The incentive scheme in the West Midlands doesn't just pay specialists to get the list down but to keep it down," Mr Yates said.

A health department spokesman confirmed that the commitment to eliminating the two-year lists by March 31 remained. "It is possible that NHS funds will be used for private treatment," he said. "It is for managers to negotiate the arrangements. If the costs are excessive, we would expect them to look elsewhere."

Fraud squad starts HMSO enquiry

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FRAUD squad detectives have begun an investigation into allegations that some staff at the Stationery Office may have received cash payments from businessmen in return for awarding printing contracts worth more than £1 million a year.

The Stationery Office called in police from the Norfolk fraud squad last autumn. The investigation covers only the headquarters of the office, in Norwich.

Suspicious centre on several companies across the country that supplied work for the Stationery Office. According to sources in the printing industry, one of the companies named in the allegations is still receiving business from the Stationery Office under a new identity. The office has been unable to comment on this.

The investigation began after an executive in the printing industry in the North-East, unhappy at rumours of corruption, contacted his MP and asked him to look into various allegations that were circulating in specialised areas of the print and supply industry.

The allegations, which were passed on last year to John Maples, economic secretary at the Treasury, were that some companies were being frozen out of contracts

even though they had offered competitive prices.

Contracts were offered by tender and it is alleged that in recent years one particular company received a large proportion of the work by undercutting other tenders by enough to secure the job. An unusually large number of urgent jobs, which were handled by one of a group of designated companies, again seemed to go to a single company.

Stationery Office rules stipulate that no company should get more than 25 per cent of its business from the office, but half of one company's turnover — said to be worth more than £1 million — is alleged to have come from the office.

The allegations were raised with a senior official at the Stationery Office and eventually forwarded to the police. Detectives have talked to the executive who made the original claims and taken a statement from another businessman in the printing industry about allegations concerning contracts worth hundreds of thousands of pounds a year over more than four years.

Details were forwarded to the Inland Revenue, but it decided to take no action. A decision to prosecute would need the agreement of the Attorney-general.

The court was told that Grant, a cashier, had turned

Pregnant swindler avoids jail

A WOMAN who defrauded her employer out of more than £20,000 avoided being jailed yesterday because she is pregnant.

The Central Criminal Court was told that Cheryl Grant, aged 23, turned to crime to raise the money for a dream wedding. Grant, of Croydon, south London, embarked on a cheque fraud to steal £23,200 from the Abbey National Building Society.

Judge Coombe told the woman that she deserved to be jailed for 18 months. "But

because your baby is due to be born in May I am faced with a dilemma," he said. "I am not sure I am right, but I have great reluctance in imposing what is a penalty on your unborn child."

He suspended an 18 months sentence for two years and ordered her to pay £3,000 compensation within one year. The money is to be raised from the sale of her former home, her wedding ring and a car.

The court was told that Grant, a cashier, had turned

to crime to pay for her wedding. But her husband was discovered before her wedding day and she had to cancel the £2,000 honeymoon trip to Los Angeles and Hawaii.

The marriage, however, went ahead. Her husband, Michael Grant, a trainee electrician, who was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, nine months of which were suspended for two years, for his part in the crime. Both had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud.

Cruises in a fix as Nile's level drops

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

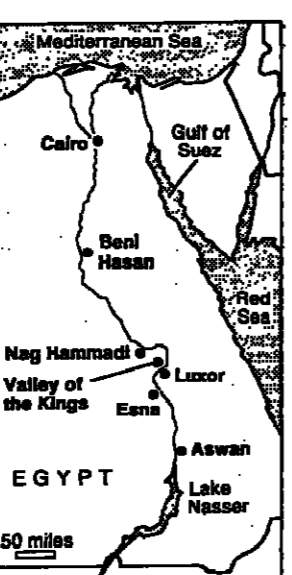
TOUR operators are considering dropping some of their most popular winter Nile cruises because of falling water levels, congestion at locks and poor official information about the state of the river.

Boats on stretches of the lower river between Cairo and Luxor, especially in December and January, often cannot move because of silt. Only new boats with very shallow draughts can now navigate all of the river, and even these have difficulty in winter.

Already, many operators are offering cruises on the upper Nile only — between Luxor and the Aswan High Dam that is blamed for the problems along the length of the Nile through Egypt.

Derek Moore was among hundreds of tourists stranded at Beni Hasan this month when his cruise boat was one of more than a dozen unable to move down-stream.

"We paid a total of £7,134 for a 17-day holiday with Swan Hellenic," Mr Moore said. "We flew to Cairo and then to Luxor and were supposed to spend the rest of the time cruising down the river. When we got to Beni Hasan, we were told there was only 50cm of water in the river



and wherever we looked there were other cruise boats in a similar position.

"We had changed to a smaller boat upstream, but it made no difference. One of the Thomas Cook boats tried to get through but had to turn back. Eventually, we were taken 160 miles by bus to Cairo and put up in a hotel, which was an excellent standard but somewhat different from cruising."

"The Egyptians don't seem to realise just how serious the problem is and what harm it

is doing to their tourist industry. If I had known it was going to be so difficult I would not have gone. I think it's wrong of tour operators to sell holidays when they know this can happen."

John Bolton, managing director of Swan Hellenic, said that it would be reassessing whether to continue the cruises in winter. "When we planned them, we thought in all honesty that we would be able to operate them properly," he said. "Five or six years ago no one had any difficulty, but gradually the river has dropped and this year fell to unusually low levels. There is a lack of accurate information in advance."

The Aswan dam was built in the 1960s in an attempt to control the yearly flood that swept down the Nile and to irrigate land beside the river. Irrigation water, taken from the dam, in winter, comes from near the surface, above the silt. When the Nile flooded naturally, this sediment, with its rich goodness, was deposited on the plain. Now, farmers have to apply fertiliser. This, in turn, is washed into the Nile, encouraging growth of algae, weed and "flower of the Nile" — floating blooms that clog propellers.

At the same time, the ambi-



Community spirit: the Right Rev Anthony Russell, Bishop of Dorchester, blessing the Red Lion at Chalgrave, near Oxford, a pub owned by the village church and whose licensee is the Rev Ian Cohen, the vicar. The pub, re-opened after renovation, helps to support the 900-year-old St Mary's Church

£5,000 put on Hitler's head

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

A BRONZE bust of Adolf Hitler, reputed to have been "liberated" from a German army headquarters, is to be auctioned in Devon on Monday along with material relating to Sir Oswald Mosley and to William Joyce, known as Lord Haw Haw for his wartime propaganda broadcasts on behalf of the Nazis.

Robin Fenner, whose company in Tavistock will auction the pieces, said that there had been much interest in the 1932 bust from clients in South America. The bust, estimated at £5,000, is said to have been brought back to England by a member of a West Country regiment.

The other material being sold belongs to a descendant of Captain C.C. Lewis, who was an Indian Army officer in Jeddah from 1925 to 1932 and later a Tory MP. It includes a series of hand-written essays and topical discussions by Lewis, annotated in the margins by Joyce.

The accompanying miscellany includes 29 copies of Blackshirt, the British Union of Fascists' magazine, a portrait of Sir Oswald, leader of the British Union of Fascists, and a photograph of Lady Mosley.

Mr Fenner said: "This material is part of our heritage, because it gives us an idea of what to be wary of."

Burglar of solicitor's office jailed

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PROFESSIONAL thief with a history of offences across the country was yesterday jailed for three years after being found guilty of burgling a solicitor's offices in Nottingham.

A defence application that a blanket ban should be imposed on reporting the hearing was rejected. However, Judge Hopkin made an order under the Contempt of Court Act preventing identification of the defendant on the

grounds that publicity could prejudice court proceedings elsewhere.

Nottingham crown court was told that the man was caught in an assurance company and later admitted that he had also burgled a solicitor's offices in the city. He admitted burgling Robert Barber Solicitors on February 28 last year, and burgling Wesleyan Assurance.

Adrian Reynolds, for the prosecution, said that police

were alerted to the burglary at Wesleyan Assurance when an alarm went off. They found a man hiding in the basement.

The defendant was carrying money taken from the premises and a rucksack containing tools, a balaclava and other items "quite clearly" intended for use in the course of a burglary. He told police that he regularly went away from home looking for places to burgle.

The court was told that the

Rejected husband killed wife and lover

A MAN murdered his estranged wife and her lover and then hanged himself after leaving messages admitting the killings, an inquest was told yesterday.

Tom Bunkell, aged 52, of Briston, Norfolk, killed Valerie Bunkell, aged 44, and Bertie Parker, also 44, with a ten-inch blade after discovering them in a cottage where they were hiding after he had previously threatened to kill them, the inquest in Dereham, Norfolk, was told. Mrs Bunkell had been so terrified of him that she had not informed the police of his threats.

Det Inspector Kevin Green told the inquest that Bunkell, a lorry driver, then went to a barn in nearby Holt, where he worked, and hanged himself after writing on a blackboard used for messages to other lorry-drivers. He wrote: "I waited until they opened the door, and I killed the pair. I cannot stand anymore. I love Valerie deeply."

Christopher Starling, the Dereham coroner, recorded verdicts of unlawful killing on Mrs Bunkell and Mr Parker, who both suffered "terrible injuries", including fractured skulls.

He recorded a verdict that Bunkell killed himself, and said: "When this sort of tragedy occurs, one wonders what could have been done to prevent it. Unfortunately, no steps were taken by Mrs Bunkell which led to an injunction giving police powers of arrest. This case shows the tragic consequences which can follow."

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Sadness sinks in as US navy sails out

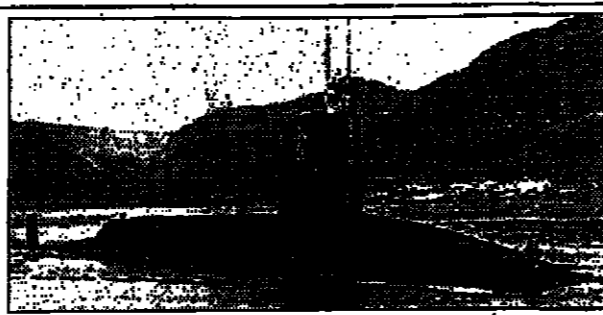
EAGLE Court, a dowdy group of pebble-dashed houses close to the American submarine base on the Holy Loch, was until a few weeks ago a bustling little community of American servicemen and their families. Yesterday, almost all the houses had emptied, and rows of forgotten barbecue sets lay abandoned on their back porches. Swings and slides were left silent in the drizzle.

After more than 30 years, the Americans are pulling out of the Holy Loch, which runs northwest off the Firth of Clyde. Officially they must be gone by June 1, but today the Mighty Servant III, a 28,000-tonne transporter, will begin its journey across the Atlantic carrying the Los Alamos, the dry dock that has serviced submarines since the Americans arrived with USS Proteus on March 3, 1961.

Their arrival was greeted with mixed feelings. More than 10,000 anti-nuclear campaigners demonstrated as the ship docked. Local girls, enthralled at the prospect of up to 4,000 would-be boyfriends and husbands, peeped longingly from behind net curtains.

Yesterday, as senior American navy officers hosted an official farewell to the town of Dunoon, Eileen Kistner,

After 30 years the last US submarine has left Holy Loch, and locals now fear that they will miss the Americans more than they thought. Kerry Gill reports



aged 20, who has never before left Scotland without her parents, looked forward with apprehension to her new life at an American base in Rhode Island. Mrs Kistner met her husband, Scott, a busman's mate from Ohio, at an Independence Day picnic held on a hill behind Dunoon three years ago.

"I am not too happy about going away, but I will have to go through with it," she said. "I hope to come back for every second Christmas. After all, Scott has missed four Christmases at home. I knew we would be going when I got married last year, but now that it is suddenly happening, it is all a bit strange."

The Americans are more twitchy than ever about security, fearing criticism of their departure. A petty officer and his wife were among the last to leave Eagle Court.

Although willing to speak as they loaded their belongings, they could not give their names without going through a tortuous exercise with base security. The husband, aged 22, was not born when the base opened. "They hated to have us here when we came, but now they hate to have us leave," he said, standing before the American flag in his living room. "I know we are going to miss Scotland. I think they are robbing us by closing the base down."

The name Holy Loch stemmed from the day a group of medieval monks set sail across the water to a leper colony at Strone. Their boat sank and they were drowned almost at the spot occupied by the submarine tender USS Simon Lake.

Down the seafront road at the landing stage for the Simon Lake, which has stood in

the Loch since 1987, long queues of taxis waited for Americans to come ashore after their stints. Dunoon once had more taxis per head than New York. By June, up to 50 per cent of them will have disappeared, according to the owners' association.

The Simon Lake, named after an American pioneer in submarine development, effectively is the base. Early next month it will leave to take up station in Norfolk, Virginia. By the time it sails down the Firth of Clyde, fewer than 200 Americans will be left.

Despite repeated assertions that the servicemen and locals mixed, the Americans tended to keep to themselves. Graeme Stewart, who was born and brought up in Dunoon, said: "What happened was that newly arrived sailors would walk into a bar and say, 'Gee, a real Scottish

pub'. They would probably come back the next night, but then they would gravitate to their own bars." Those were the Double AA bar and the Harmony Hotel, which would host country and western nights. Yesterday, both were nearly empty.

One place that was full was the window of Chalmers' estate agents. The company has been given the job of selling 64 houses formerly occupied by American families. Some of the better houses have sparked interest among people wanting to commute to Glasgow.

The loss of the Americans is expected to put up to 9,000 people out of work, mainly civilians working for the base and people working in support industries, from shops to contract firms. Up to £11 million is likely to be taken out of the local economy.

One hotelier said: "Most of this town has its head in the sand. People won't realise what is happening until they wake up this summer and all the Americans have gone." He pointed to a series of marketing seminars in Dunoon, designed to help businesses come to terms with the loss of American cash. Only seven people had expressed any interest, two from his own hotel.



Open wide: John Phillips, of the Natural History Museum's engineering section, inspects a life-size model of a tyrannosaurus rex that will feature in a permanent dinosaur exhibition opening on April 15. The museum, in London, will combine fossils, robotic and static models, and

computer displays to provide a comprehensive picture of dinosaur life, and will examine how a group of animals that survived for millions of years eventually became extinct. Visitors will be able to handle some of the exhibits, including casts of claws, tails and teeth.

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A RACE APART

Hull puts accent on plain talk

By PETER DAVENPORT

IT USED to be said that Hull was difficult to reach and that, once there, the visitor could not understand what its residents were talking about. The arrival of the M62 and the Humber bridge alleviated many of the transport problems and now a guide book has been published to break down the language barriers.

Learn to Speak Hull is a new publication which translates local phrases which have traditionally left outsiders perplexed.

The linguistic gems it seeks to explain include "fern calls" (telephone calls), "curdless ferns" (cordless telephones), "pearls" (natives of Poland), "pearl tax" (the community charge), "err nerr" (an expression of dismay), "lerds and lerds" (plenty) and "you've got to be jerkin" (I do not believe you).

The guide has been produced by the city's Remould Theatre Company and welcomed by the city council. The company produced the booklet because it is to stage a community play this year featuring hundreds of local people, and the writers feared that visitors from outside Hull would be unable to understand the dialogue. An initial print run of 1,000 copies, at 30p, has proved popular.

Trevor Wright, the theatre company's education officer, said yesterday: "The people of Hull have a unique accent which, for those not used to it, can be very difficult to follow."

"Because Hull is such an isolated city, it is not as cosmopolitan as places such as Sheffield or Leeds. The accents of its people have altered very little and are very pure. Everyone in Hull is very proud of their accents, but it can make our job a little difficult when we are trying to put on a play about the city and its people for visitors."

Hundreds of residents have suggested more phrases for listing. Trevor Larsen, chairman of the council's cultural services committee, said: "I believe the famous Hull 'err' could really catch on."

Acid bath killer gets life term

The man convicted of murdering his wife by putting her in a tank of acid was jailed for life at the Old Bailey in London yesterday, with the recommendation that he serve at least 18 years.

Cecil Jackson, aged 37, of Forest Gate, east London, throttled his wife, Dassa, aged 30, and put what he thought was her dead body in the acid tank. She died in hospital later.

Mr Justice Hidden told Jackson: "You are a very dangerous man with an enormous capacity for evil." He described the case as one of the "most horrific" it was possible to imagine.

River rescue

Nine people, including four children, were rescued from the Severn at Arlingham, Gloucestershire, after their inflatable dinghy was capsized by the Severn Bore.

Donegan ill

Lionel Donegan the former skiffle star, aged 60, has been admitted to Guy's hospital, south London. The hospital would not confirm reports that he is to have heart surgery.

Opera loan

Edinburgh city council has been given permission by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, to borrow £1 million to convert the Empire Theatre into an opera house.

Swan boost

A ban on the use of lead fishing weights helped to boost the mute swan population to a record level of about 25,000 in 1990.

Tosa castrated

Ichii, the only Japanese tosa in Britain and owned by a south London woman, has been castrated in compliance with the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Robbing hoods

Three 18-year-olds who held up a motorist with crossbows in Sherwood Forest were sent to a detention centre by Nottingham crown court.

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Tories say Labour will cost share buyers dear

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Labour's plans for tighter regulation of British Telecom and regional electricity companies would wipe £1,000 off the value of the holdings of many small shareholders, the Conservatives said yesterday. John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, said Labour was planning to drive down the profits and dividends of the privatised utilities as a precursor to renationalising them on the cheap. He accused Labour of pursuing a policy of "creeping nationalisation".

Someone holding 500 BT and 500 electricity shares faced an immediate loss of £1,000 in the value of their investment as a result of the proposed squeeze, he said.

"Labour has targeted shareholders to pay the bills for many of its wilder policies. If you have saved and bought some shares in BT and your local electricity company you would suffer from Labour's 'smash and grab' raid," he told a press conference at Conservative Central Office.

A spokesman for Gordon

Brown, the shadow trade secretary, said it was Labour policy that if the privatised companies made excessive profits they should be reduced to a more normal level in industry. "If the government thinks excessive profits are justifiable, it must say why. The onus of the argument is in their court."

Armed with a new Tory poster bearing the slogan "Tell Sid his shares aren't safe with Labour", Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said that Labour's ultimate objective was to renationalise all the utilities and penalise some ten million shareholders.

"The Labour party is now the only major political party in the world advocating an extension of state ownership," Mr Lilley said as he highlighted state sell-offs in countries as disparate as Sweden, Peru and Kuwait.

As the ministers acknowledged, Labour has toned down its renationalisation plans since the 1987 election. Its present priorities are to take the ten regional water companies back into public ownership and to renationalise the national grid, but even these are being downgraded. Mr Brown's spokesman said: "Water is something that will happen when regional authorities (for England) are in existence and when resources allow." This could take longer than the five year lifetime of a parliament.

After the sale of an extra 27.5 per cent of BT in December, Labour appears to have dropped plans to take a controlling stake in the company. It has also said that it would pay a "fair market price" for shares acquired by the state.

However, the Tories said that they had strong doubts over this pledge, claiming that a series of Labour spokesmen had given the impression that they would use a variety of devices to depress the value of the shares they wished to acquire. In the past three months, they had disclosed plans to reduce BT's profits by £1 billion and to cut those of the regional electricity companies by 37.5 per cent.

Mr Redwood said that it would cost the taxpayer £10 billion to renationalise the water companies and the national grid. "This would be the equivalent of five pence on the basic rate of income tax in one year. Labour would want to find a cheaper way of getting control at the expense of existing shareholders."



Follow me: Neil Kinnock arranging a photograph of Labour's women prospective parliamentary candidates in the Midlands during his visit to the International Convention Centre, Birmingham, yesterday. Mr Kinnock said a tax cut would be the Tories' last card. "They are going to try to buy votes with borrowed money the voters will then have to pay back. That is the economics of embezzlement."

Renton under pressure to curb art exodus

TIM RENTON, the arts minister, is coming under increasing pressure to reform controls on art exports before the flow of great works coming onto the market place becomes a flood (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). Graham Greene, chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said

in a letter to the minister that he "cannot emphasise too strongly the destructive effect of the continuing lack of action to address effective reform of our export control procedures".

Mr Renton announced last December that he was considering introducing a list of supreme heritage items that would not be allowed to leave the country.

That statement prompted some art owners to rush their works onto the market, including Lord Cholmondeley with his £15 million Holbein. A number of other works are scheduled for sale at Christie's in April.

Mr Renton says he will

make his decision at the end of March, although heritage lobbyists fear that a general election would cause further delay. Mr Greene said yesterday that the United Kingdom's dominant position in the European art market would "inevitably be weakened" should listing without compensation be introduced.

Lords not able to save bill for disabled

By BOB MORGAN

A PRIVATE members' bill to improve the rights of disabled people was given an unopposed second reading in the House of Lords yesterday, but an attempt to reintroduce an identical measure in the Commons was blocked.

The Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill fell in the Commons when first introduced three weeks ago by Alf Morris, former Labour minister for the disabled. It was put before the Lords yesterday by Lady Lockwood. Despite its success in the upper House, the measure has no chance of becoming law.

□ The Timeshare Bill, a private members' measure which provides a 14-day cooling off period for customers and provides for £2,000 fines for organisations that fail to offer such periods, completed its Commons stages.

□ The Firearms (Amendment) Bill, another private members' measure, giving the home secretary power to shorten the time limit on firearm certificates, completed its Commons stages.

Brewers lobby for cut in duty

By ROBIN YOUNG

A NEWLY formed association of small, independent breweries lobbied Parliament yesterday to demand that Britain should follow the example of other European countries by levying a lower rate of duty on small producers' beer.

The Small Independent Brewers' Association, formed to campaign on behalf of 185 small, local breweries, said the progressive system had been recommended by the Monopolies Commission and supported by consumer groups. David Roberts, the association's chairman, said: "The government has not given any reason for not introducing such a system. We can only assume the fact that nothing has been done is due to pressure exerted by the giant national breweries."

Mr Roberts said duty could be cut by as much as 18p a pint for beer produced by the smallest breweries. "A lower rate of duty would help more breweries to open and lead to lower prices and more choice for drinkers in the pubs," he added.

British MPs lag behind on perks

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

OFFICE and travel expenses for British MPs are only a fraction of those paid to American legislators and are lower than those of most other European countries, according to figures released by John MacGregor, the leader of the Commons.

British MPs can claim an office costs allowance on top of their £30,854 salaries of up to £28,986, plus 10 per cent for the pension contributions of their staff. An American Congressman gets £295,725 to hire up to 18 permanent and four part-time staff, a "base" allowance of up to £67,400 to cover constituency office costs, and an entertainment allowance of £96,286 to £151,307.

A member of the German Bundestag collects £51,408 for research and secretarial costs, £24,805 for office costs, and £1,394 for constituency taxes. A deputy in the French National Assembly can claim up to £60,588 a year in secretarial, research and office costs, and a member of the European Parliament can charge up to £52,692 for secretarial assistance, and up to £22,260 for office management, telephone, postage and travel within member states.

British, German and French MPs get free inland postage. An American Congressman has an annual mail allowance averaging £96,286 a year. Telephone calls are free inland for British and French MPs. German MPs get free national and international calls.

British, French and Ger-

man MPs and US congressmen get free travel to and from their legislature, with British MPs also receiving a motor mileage allowance of 15.1p to 34.1p per mile, and one free trip a year to an European Community institution. European parliament members get a flat-rate travel allowance of 50p per kilometre for the first 800 kilometres, then 25p per kilometre, for travel to meetings. They are also reimbursed for air fares by the most direct route for meetings outside Community territory.

Comparisons are rather more complicated on subsistence and constituency costs. Euro-MPs get £128 per day for attending meetings within the Community, plus the cost of overnight accommodation for meetings outside. A French deputy gets 3-10 per cent of his or her £35,724 annual salary, depending on the distance of the constituency from Paris. German MPs have to meet the costs of any second home out of their office allowance, but have their hotel bills paid when an overnight stay is necessary, plus a £14 per night allowance.

British MPs with constituencies outside London are allowed an additional costs allowance of up to £10,786 a year for maintaining a second home. Those with London constituencies have an allowance of £1,222 a year.

Mr MacGregor disclosed the figures in response to a question by Hugh Dykes, Tory MP for Harrow East.

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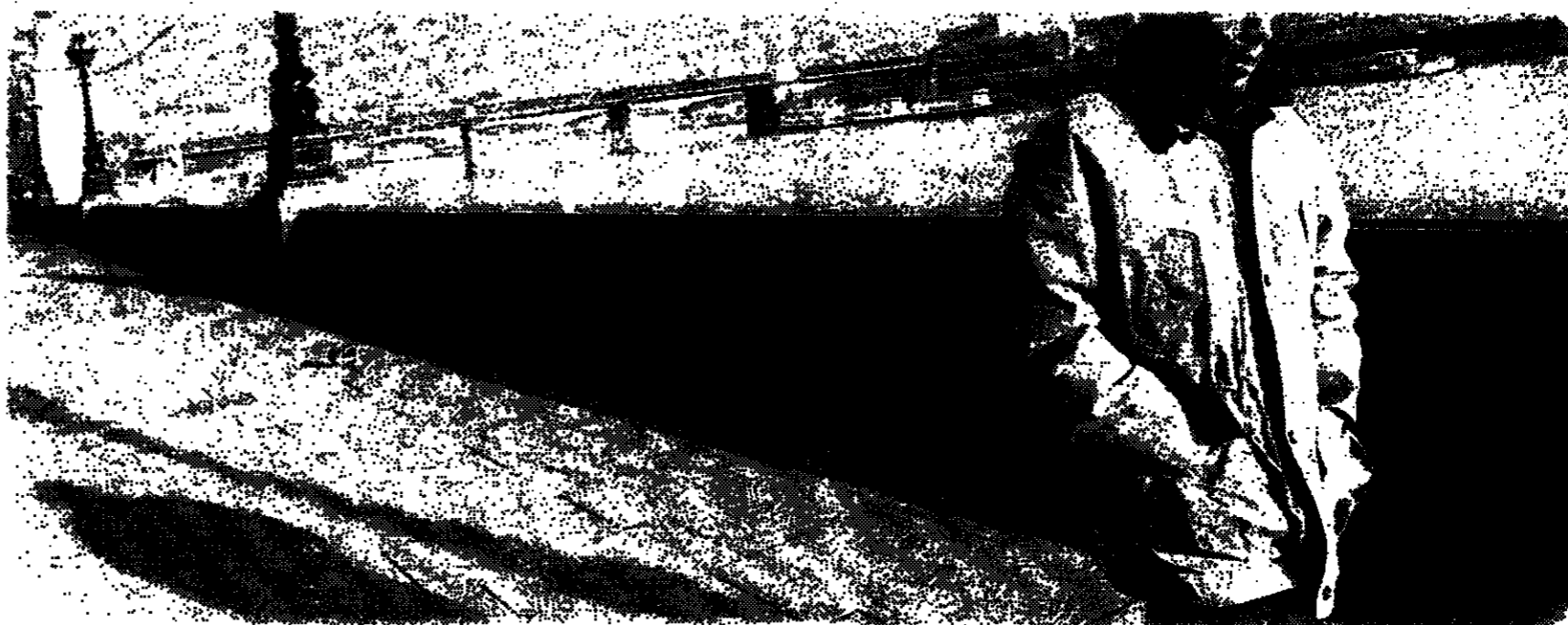
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Anger at invasion of southern Lebanon threatens to revive dormant Palestinian and Shia militias

Israel chooses to ignore old lesson

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

AS THE lethal attack on the convoy carrying Sheikh Abbas Moussawi, the Hezbollah leader, his wife, infant son and five bodyguards clearly demonstrated, there are few details of life in Lebanon which escape Israeli military intelligence.

But as the week's casualty toll grew yesterday with the death of a five-year-old Israeli girl, hit by a Katyusha rocket fired across the border, it is questionable whether Israel has learnt any lessons from its experiences in Lebanon.

Ten years ago, the Israelis invaded Lebanon under the guise of securing peace for their civilians in northern Galilee. They succeeded in ousting Palestinian guerrillas from their strongholds in southern Lebanon and Beirut, but ultimately were left facing a far more dangerous and fanatical opponent.

As Israel tried to consolidate its control over Lebanon during the three-year occupation, the Shias of the south

were easily mobilised by Syria and Iran into a violent resistance campaign. They have since inflicted numerous damaging attacks against Israel and its proxy in the area, the South Lebanon Army.

Israel's vulnerability became apparent this week when it was powerless to prevent more than 100 Katyusha rockets from hitting northern Galilee and when two of its ground troops were killed and three injured attempting to destroy Hezbollah positions only a couple of miles north of the security zone.

Just as the Lebanese government and its Syrian masters were beginning to disarm and disband the country's myriad militias and restore a semblance of power to the Lebanese army, the Israeli attacks have succeeded in re-activating hundreds of gunmen from an assortment of Palestinian guerrilla organisations, Lebanese left-wing groups, and Shia Muslim

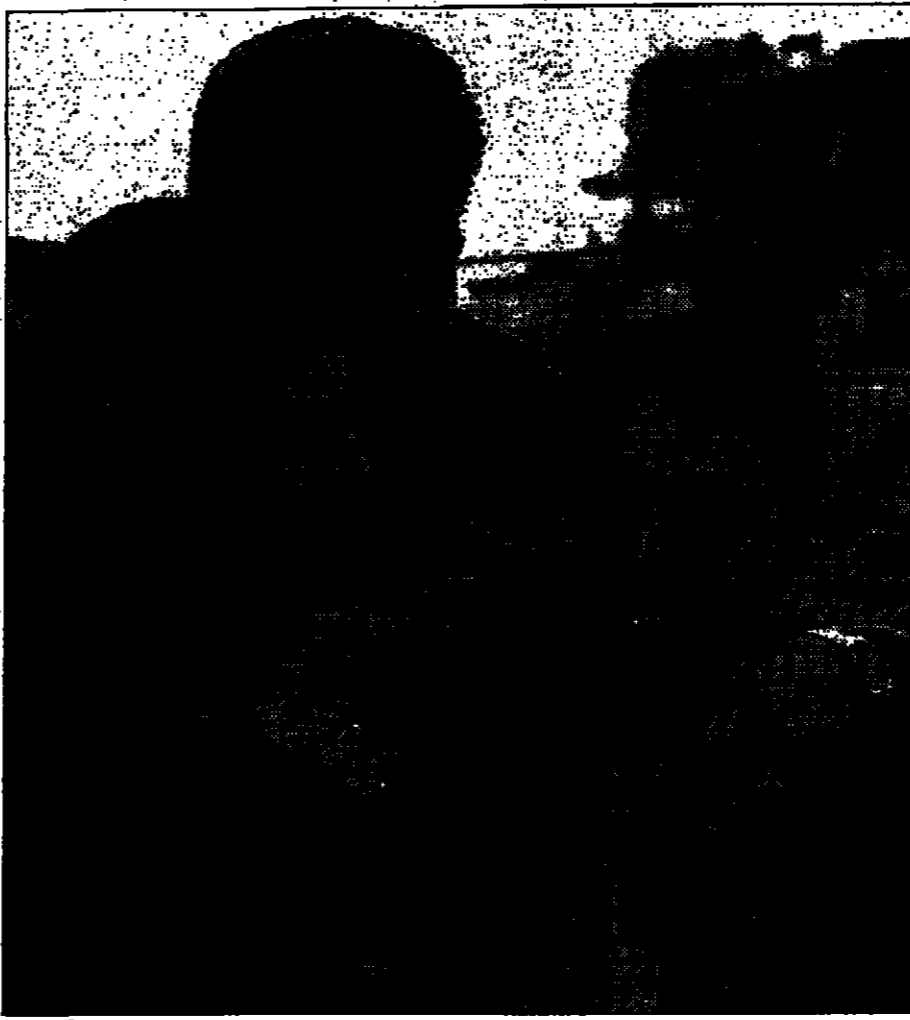
fundamentalists. It is perhaps no coincidence that the very forces being mobilised in Lebanon — the Iranian-backed fundamentalists and hardline Palestinians — are precisely the groups who oppose the reconvening of bilateral peace talks with Israel on Monday in Washington.

Similarly, the Israelis shouting loudest for reprisal actions are those who would most like to see the peace process halted in its tracks.

Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, is a prime example. This week he attempted to attract Likud party support for his leadership bid by volunteering his services as the only man capable of "wiping out" the "upsurge in terror" in southern Lebanon.

As the architect of the disastrous invasion of Lebanon ten years ago, Israelis could be forgiven for not knowing whether to laugh or cry at his offer.

Rocket attack, page 1



Brothers in arms: Israeli soldiers greeting a comrade on his return to the base from where Israel is launching its attacks on Hezbollah in southern Lebanon

Gulf war weapons keep on killing

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN UMM GUDAIR, KUWAIT

NEARLY a year after the Gulf war ended, the unexploded allied munitions and Iraqi mines still littering the desert continue to exact a much higher toll in lives than did the conflict itself.

A senior British explosives expert, working in punishing conditions here yesterday to neutralise a minefield close to the Saudi border, disclosed that about a third of the 100,000 tonnes of explosive dropped by the allied air forces failed to explode. The point was uncomfortably reinforced when our four-wheel-drive vehicle narrowly missed detonating a just-visible American armour-piercing bomb on a supposedly safe track.

"At the time of the main air offensive, the sand was soggy and acted like a sponge, which was why over 30 per cent of the stuff dropped on the Iraqis failed to explode," said Brian Ashwell, operations manager of Passive Barriers, a London-based company involved in a hazardous clean-up expected to last at least three more years and cost more than \$1 billion (£575 million).

"Another reason why there is so much unexploded material is that many of the weapons dropped were highly experimental and did not go off as expected. There are also huge quantities of abandoned Iraqi weaponry, also in poor condition, because of the sun. This summer will be a very testing time for everyone working out here."

In one bunker, we found this containing 2,000 bullets for Kalashnikovs and many grenades lying dangerously with their pins still protruding. In nearby bunkers, Kuwaitis with pick-up trucks were pilfering, apparently oblivious to the danger.

British experts dismissed as low the latest Kuwaiti figures showing that 1,420 civilians, many of them children, have been killed or wounded by left-over mines and ammunition. Among those killed were 84 foreign explosives experts trying to make the left-overs safe. Two hundred people are said to have died last December alone.

UN envoy to warn Iraq on arms cuts

Baghdad: Rolf Ekeus, the UN envoy in charge of disarming Iraq, arrived in Baghdad to discuss allegations that the government is obstructing efforts to scrap its most lethal weapons.

He said that he hoped "to bring home to the Iraqi side" the contents of a security council resolution on February 19 warning Baghdad of "serious consequences" if it did not co-operate. (Reuters)

Arabs backed

Peking: Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, reaffirmed Peking's support for the Arab and Palestinian cause, a month after it set up diplomatic ties with Israel, and said that China would participate in the Middle East peace process. (Reuters)

Soldiers sent

Cairo: Iran has sent 18,000 troops to Sudan to back the junta against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army since President Rafsanjani visited Khartoum in December, exiled members of the opposition National Democratic Rally said. (AFP)

Algiers calm

Algiers: The Algerian capital was quiet yesterday, the first time in a month that Friday prayers has not been prelude to violence. Many people chose to pray in local mosques rather than those that have been centres of political activity. (AP)

Chad killings

Ndjamena: A raid by armed, uniformed men on a police station in the Chad capital left 13 people dead. The attack came on the fourth day of a general strike called by the opposition after the assassination of Joseph Behidi, a human rights lawyer. (AP)

Baby sale ban

Colombo: The Sri Lankan parliament has passed a law to stop the sale of babies for adoption by foreigners. The law targeted "baby farms" that buy babies from single mothers for 1,000 rupees (£14) and sell them for 25,000 rupees. (AP)

Kuwaitis adopt babies of rape

Christopher Walker in Kuwait finds that the children of Iraqi troops have sympathy from the emirate's people

KUWAITI couples are queuing up to adopt illegitimate babies born after Iraq's occupation, most of them the offspring of rapes carried out by the pillaging army driven out a year ago next week.

Western observers say that the enthusiasm of the Kuwaitis to overcome the normal Islamic reticence about adoption has been one of the most heartening by-products of the conflict. Normally, only ten children a year were given up for adoption in the emirate, whose orphanages are very well managed. But since the Iraqis were driven out, 59 children have gone to foster homes, including all 45 adopted temporarily during the occupation.

Doctors have been trying to reduce international and domestic media interest in one of the war's unhappiest legacies, the children whose forced Iraqi parenthood threatens to blight their future. At the Dar al-Tufalah orphanage, isolated on the outskirts of Kuwait City, staff flatly refuse to discuss the origin of the babies, often dumped beside mosques and police stations by mothers afraid of rejection as rape victims in a conservative Islamic society.

"We do not want these children to be labelled as being connected in any way with the Iraqis, otherwise society will come to hate them," said Dr Essa al-Sadi, the director of orphanages. "As far as we are concerned, they are all orphans and we ask no further questions." The doctors have been helped

because Iraqis and Kuwaitis look similar. Names are chosen for the children which give no hint of their origin.

So far, the doctors' fears have proved groundless: Kuwaitis are often well aware how many of the orphans were conceived. But they have not been deterred from wanting to foster them.

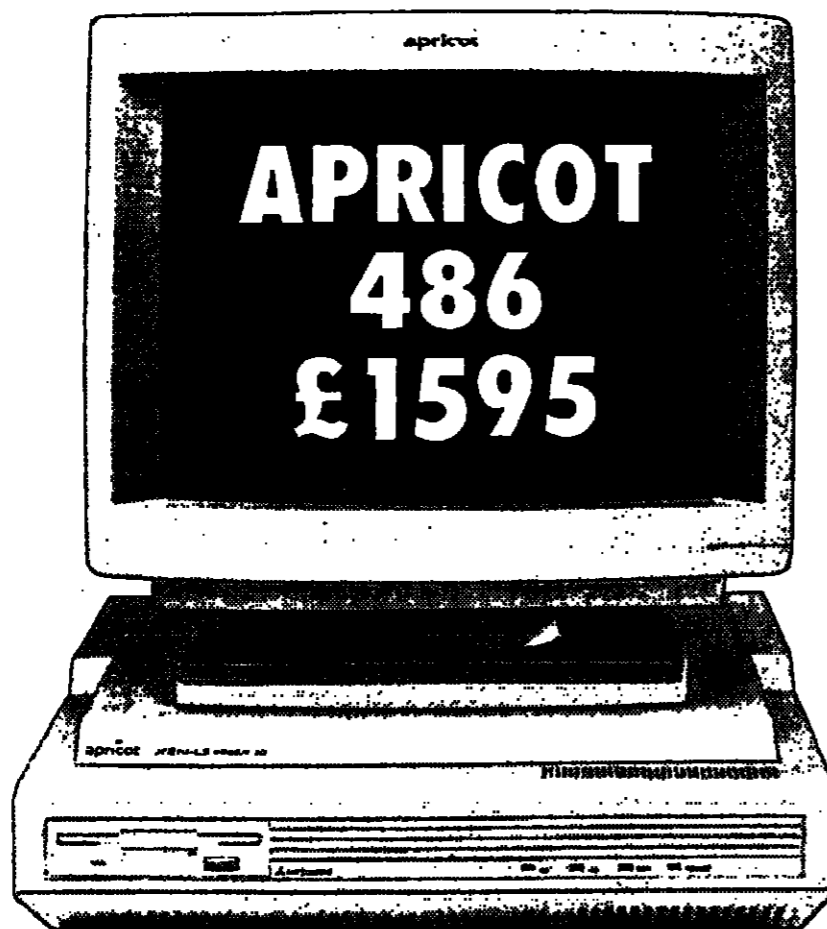
Social workers believe that about 500 women were raped during the seven-month occupation, some repeatedly and with great brutality in retaliation for the help that they or male relatives gave to the resistance, about 40 per cent of whose members were women.

After the occupation, panic spread among many of the rape victims who found they were pregnant. Most went abroad for secret abortions, banned under Islam. Adoption in the Western sense is also forbidden, but a form of fostering known as *hadanah*, in which a child can be taken in, but not take the family name or join the line of inheritance, is allowed.

Social indignity prevented most of those who continued their pregnancies from coming to the orphanage in person. Some left their babies in hospitals after checking in under false names and others dumped them in public places where they could be quickly discovered.

Although strenuous efforts are being made to play down the background of the illegitimate war babies, staff fear that in later life they will discover the truth.

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CUNARD

Right-wing whites prepare for last stand in referendum

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

RIGHT-WING whites in South Africa are preparing for a showdown with the government, convinced that their survival as a separate "nation" is at stake.

The forthcoming referendum on constitutional reforms is viewed in conservative white communities as a political last stand against the threat of black majority rule. If they fail to halt the reform process, they see their options limited to either emigration or armed revolt.

In Welkom, a gold-mining town in the plateau of the Orange Free State, residents are comparing the referen-

dum with the epic battles of their forefathers against indigenous Africans in the last century.

"This is make or break for us," says Hennie Muller, a supporter of the far-right Conservative party. "If we lose this one, what will happen to us? Where can we go? Listen, the white people of South Africa will never accept black majority rule. Never, it's impossible."

Mr Muller and his friends welcome the referendum, confident that whites will reject President de Klerk's attempts to negotiate an interim power-sharing ar-

rangement with black leaders. "We feel very good about it, because we are going to win and take over the government. If we lose, there will be a hell of a fight, my friend," he said.

The right-wing backlash is being taken seriously by the African National Congress, which shares the government's view that speedy progress in constitutional negotiations is now imperative.

Kader Asmal, an ANC constitutional expert participating in the negotiations, told foreign correspondents yesterday: "We are conscious of the threat. The capacity of the extreme right wing to unleash violence is unlimited. Part of the response must be to shorten the transition period. Time is not on our side; we should move quickly to reach agreements."

Mr Asmal said the ANC was prepared to instill confidence among whites with guarantees of constitutional rights, employment and security which would be beyond the whims of any majority government. However, it was having difficulty putting its message across because of bias against it in the state media.

The referendum is expected to be held next month, before the second plenary session of the constitutional negotiations (Codesa), and possibly before the budget is announced on March 18.

Mr de Klerk wants the poll to be conducted on the basis of a simple majority, while Andries Treurnicht, the Conservative leader, is demanding that it be held under the electoral constituency system which analysts say would favour the right wing.

They are also squabbling over what question the referendum should ask. Dr Treurnicht says it should not be who should represent whites at Codesa, because his party has no intention of participating in the negotiating forum as constituted.

Mr de Klerk says vaguely that the question will be phrased in such a way that all those who are in favour of the negotiations will be able to continue supporting them. The conventional wisdom is that the government will win the referendum with the support of liberals in the Democratic party, but that the result will be close.

In London, the Foreign Office said the British government had consistently taken the view that it is for all South Africans to decide together on the future of their country. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have constantly supported the search for agreement on a non-racial, democratic South Africa. The path of reform on which South Africa has embarked is the only course which will achieve her full re-integration into the international community and enable her to attract investment."

● Cape Town: At least four people have been killed and 150 homes burnt in the latest clash between residents of a Black City squatter camp and feuding taxi operators. The rival Webba and Lagurya taxi associations are battling for control of the commuter terminus in the nearby Nyanga township. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 13

Bush rival forces hotel showdown

The president is facing the "ships that pass in the night" routine with Pat Buchanan on the election trail in Charleston, Peter Stothard reports

President Bush came a step closer to engaging his upstart Republican challenger, Patrick Buchanan, yesterday, not merely referring to him by name but appearing at the same hotel.

This was not what the president had planned. Mr Bush, supported by his cabinet and the entire Republican establishment of South Carolina, was here to address the more than 1,000 Southern volunteers he hopes will deliver him victory in the next round of primary elections. Mr Buchanan, who is struggling as an outsider in the same primary campaigns, was not invited to yesterday's Southern Republican Leadership Conference.

The challenger came, however, and loomed around the corridors. A man who has just won 37 per cent of the New Hampshire primary vote looms heavily. As Mr Bush talked to Southern leaders, marshalled here by his friend and campaign chairman, Governor Carroll Campbell, Mr Buchanan talked to the press and to any delegate who wanted to hear him.

His "ships in the night" routine, as one delegate described it, highlights the problem which the White House faces in dealing with Mr Buchanan. Immediately after his New Hampshire setback, the president spoke of ending his "kinder gentler" approach to the former speech-writer and presidential aide whom many senior officials still see as a rebellious servant. The gloves would now come off.

Yesterday, however, it appeared that President Bush preferred to remain presidential and above the rough-and-tumble of primary politics. A new poll by CNN and USA Today showed a continuing fall to 39 per cent in those approving his performance in office. His advisers now believe that directly confronting Mr Buchanan ("getting down in the mud" as they put it) will weaken Mr Bush still further. The White House strategy now

is to rely on its greatly superior political machinery in the South, which is nowhere more apparent than in South Carolina, the state that led the president to his decisive Southern victory in 1988 and is expected to do similar duty this year.

The Buchanan campaign must contend here with a political system which respects power almost as much as New Hampshire likes to undermine it. The president has the backing of all 56 Republican state congressmen.

Mr Buchanan has somehow to appeal directly to the voters, who, unless they have access to his cable television talk show, may have little idea who he is.

In 1988 Mr Bush's Southern organisation, and his position as the Reagan heir, helped him defeat both the mild protectionism of Robert Dole and the fiery moral rhetoric of the Rev Patrick Robertson. This year, facing both Mr Buchanan and the untold opposition of former Ku Klux Klan wizard David Duke, he is relying more on organisation than ideology.

Mr Duke was also due to appear here yesterday but changed his mind, heightening the suspicion that the two are playing "team tag" with the president, allowing each other the turn to try to land body blows.



Buchanan: voters may have little idea of him

Cancer kills sinister architect of Salvadorean death squads

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

MAJOR Roberto D'Aubuisson, the handsome strongman of El Salvador's political scene and the figure behind its notorious death squads, has died in San Salvador at the age of 48. He had had throat cancer for two years.

Charismatic, brilliant and one of the most sinister figures in Latin American politics, he was a young security forces officer when he became the visible leader of the violent far-right forces, supported by the military and large land owners, which came under siege from marxist guerrillas in the late 1970s.

His death, a month after a historic treaty ended Central America's bloodiest civil war, was hailed by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front's guerrilla army as "an act of divine justice in this moment of national reconciliation." But President Cristiani, who emerged from Major d'Aubuisson's own Arena

party, said that he was "one of the fundamental people in seeing to it that we are now enjoying democracy."

Revered by many in El Salvador as a relentless crusader against communism and the epitome of Latin American masculinity, Major D'Aubuisson was said by international bodies and senior US officials to have been the mastermind of the shadowy squads which murdered thousands of people, including Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, in the early 1980s. He and other right-wing officers were arrested in May 1980 for allegedly plotting a coup but he was freed in days. Documents found at the farm where he was arrested implicated him in Romero's death.

Robert White, the American ambassador under President Carter, called Major D'Aubuisson a "pathological killer with a sick mind". The

Reagan administration viewed him as an embarrassment to efforts to promote a democratic government of the centre and banned him from entry to America, where he had trained in security police work. In 1984 the Reagan administration said his associates had been involved in a plot to kill Thomas Pickering, the then US ambassador who is now Washington's envoy to the United Nations.

Major D'Aubuisson always denied having links to the Romero killing or the death squads and blamed many of the accusations on the international press. He boasted he knew only one phrase in English, but the most important: "I hate The Washington Post." In recent years he retired behind the scenes as Señor Cristiani adopted a more flexible approach to healing national wounds.

-Obituary, page 15



Bloom of health: Dizzy Gillespie, the jazz trumpeter, aged 74, leaving a hospital in Berkeley, California, with flowers after being treated for exhaustion

PEOPLE

Tyson victim says \$1m was offered

Desiree Washington, the beauty queen Mike Tyson was convicted of raping, says she was offered \$1 million to drop charges against him but would have settled for a simple apology from the former heavyweight champion.

The college student who pressed the charges against Tyson made the comments in an interview with the ABC television network, to be shown last night. She said that she had pitied him, and "if he had admitted he had a problem and said, 'get me some help', I wouldn't have gone through this trial."

Actor Tom Selleck, known for his conservative politics, is giving \$1,000 (£572) donations to several presidential candidates in both parties. Democrat Jerry Brown declined, saying he has pledged his presidential campaign will only accept donations of \$100 or less. Mr Selleck, who starred in the television series *Magnum PI* and the film *Three Men and a Cradle*, said: "I think his refusal is a mistake."

Actress Glenda Jackson was accused of using dirty tricks in her attempt to become an MP. Her Tory opponent says he has been smeared in a leaflet. Jackson said Oliver Letwin was an extreme right winger, who had been the architect of Margaret Thatcher's poll tax. She also said he wanted outright privatisation of the health service with patients being charged for treatment. Mr

Letwin's agent said the smear was distasteful and untrue.

Oldko and Riga Reussen, who have 64 apes and monkeys and run the Age Foundation, received an eviction notice to make way for a road through their refuge for animals confiscated by Dutch customs. The council of Amstelveen, the Amsterdam suburb, has offered to help to pay for their move to unoccupied farmland nearby.

Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the former UN secretary-general, has been named the winner of this year's Four Freedoms award, the Roosevelt Studies Centre said. The award commemorates Franklin D. Roosevelt's landmark "Four Freedoms" speech of 1941.

The former Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, will write a monthly column for *The New York Times* syndication service, the paper said. He would deal with such issues as the future of communism, the Gulf war and relations between the Kremlin and the Pope.

President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic has defended the construction of a huge \$9 million (£5.2 million) lighthouse honouring explorer Christopher Columbus on the 500th anniversary of his voyage to the New World. Opponents say it is an extravagance for a poor nation.

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Tourist video could tip balance in Malta poll

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN VALLETTA

A BRITISH tourist who videoed one of the few violent incidents in an otherwise peaceful campaign for today's general election in Malta may have tipped the close-run contest in favour of the ruling Nationalist party.

The five-week campaign ended on Thursday night in a carnival atmosphere with thousands of supporters of the Nationalists and their Labour opponents touring the country in open-topped buses and lorries painted in the parties' colours, blaring horns and snarling up traffic.

Previous elections in Malta had been marred by shooting incidents between militants. But the campaign for today's polls, which were called earlier than necessary by Eddie Fenech Adami, the Nationalist prime minister, has been the quietest in decades.

On Sunday, however, trouble began when rival electioneering motorcades from the conservative Nationalists and the socialist Labour party drove into each other at the town of Sliema on the outskirts of the capital Valletta. A British tourist who has asked not to be identified used his video camera to capture footage of Labour party militants vandalising shops in Sliema, a Nationalist stronghold.

The Nationalists' public relations machine somehow obtained the video and distributed copies at a press conference. Malta's broadcasting authority persuaded the Nationalists to show the film on news bulletins but the Nationalists were able to have it televised during their party political broadcasts.

"One incident enabled the Nationalists to present themselves as the party of social peace. Because a British passer-by filmed the episode the Labour party could not claim it was set up by the Nationalist dirty tricks department."

The Nationalists have been in power since 1987 and hope to increase their slender parliamentary majority before the recession reaches

Malta. Observers say Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, the leader of the Labour party, conducted a lacklustre campaign accusing the Nationalists of corruption, without suggesting convincing policies of his own.

The two parties are neck-and-neck and Nationalist campaign managers fear their supporters could become complacent. Some pundits believe that unusually bad weather on polling day could favour the Labour party, whose voters are generally better disciplined to brave the elements.

Malta's formal application, lodged in 1990 by the Nationalist government, to join the European Community has been a key issue in the campaign. The Labour party says it is not in Malta's interests to become a full member of the Community and that the country should seek a bigger role in the Mediterranean and North Africa.

Some observers believe the prime minister wanted to have the polls, not due until October, out of the way before possible UN sanctions are implemented against Libya. The Labour party has said it would not support sanctions if elected because they would damage trade and deprive Air Malta of lucrative revenue from the air route to Tripoli. The Nationalists have indicated they would support sanctions but also are worried they could threaten Maltese jobs.

The Nationalist government has rescinded military clauses in a 1984 co-operation treaty with Libya. But Libyans can still enter Malta without visas or passports. Libyan investment in the Maltese tourist industry is strong and Malta recently opened a supermarket in Libya selling exclusively Maltese goods.

The first results in the election are expected on Monday afternoon since counting is carried out by hand.



Burnt out: black smoke billowing this week in Seville from the "Pavilion of the Discoveries", constructed for the Expo '92 world fair beginning in April. The fire destroyed the building that was to commemorate key discoveries since Columbus went to the New World in 1492

Expo '92 flames touch a raw nerve

The psychosis of terror is proving difficult to deal with in what was supposed to be a special year for Spain, Frank Smith writes

IT has been a bad week for Spanish pride. First, one of the main pavilions of Expo '92 in Seville was gutted by fire. Then Basque terrorists killed two civilians in a car bomb attack in the northern city of Santander.

The only good news has been the bronze medal won by Blanca Fernández Ochoa, the Spanish skier, in the women's special slalom at the winter Olympics in Albertville. But the fact that a bronze medal should be celebrated as if it were a double gold speaks volumes about the state of the nation's mental preparedness for what is supposed to be its year of wonders.

"All you have to do now is light up a cigar," an Expo official in Seville said, "and you will be surrounded by firemen." In the wake of the fire that destroyed the Discoveries Pavilion — the showpiece of the universal exposition, the main theme of which is "the age of discoveries" — it is perhaps understandable that something like a "psychosis of fire" should now be raging through the site of Expo. Forty-eight hours after the

Discoveries Pavilion went up in flames on Tuesday, another pall of smoke was seen rising over the Expo site. The fire service arrived promptly, only to discover that a group of workmen intent, they said, on keeping warm, had started a small fire in a builder's skip. But the way officials stopped journalists getting to the scene shows a raw nerve has been exposed.

With only 57 days to go to the official opening of Expo, the biggest damage done by the flames has been to the confidence of the organisers of what, Emilio Cassinello, the commissioner-general, says was supposed to have been "a magic mirror" on modern Spain. It has become clear that, in the last-minute rush to get things ready on time, dangerous shortcuts are being taken and "Spanish customs" being resorted to. A lot of work

is yet to be done. The interiors of many pavilions are unfinished, their contents and furniture not installed. The rush is increasing costs enormously. Contractors are said to be asking double pay to work faster. When Expo opens, it will have cost more than £1 billion — three times the original estimate.

But it is the psychosis of terror that is much more difficult to deal with. With its latest outrage in Santander, the Basque terrorist group, Eta, has again shown that it is determined to spoil 1992. It matters little that its targets are not always where the big celebrations will take place. Santander, Valencia and Murcia — three of the cities where Eta has struck recently — have nothing to do with the Olympic Games or Expo. But wherever a bomb explodes and people are killed the effect is devastat-

ing. This week, the Japanese authorities warned their citizens thinking of visiting the Olympics or Expo that Spain would be a dangerous place. The government of the prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, was furious with Tokyo.

Even the normally ebullient Pasqual Maragall, the socialist mayor of Barcelona, was forced to concede, after the Madrid car bomb which killed five people two weeks ago, that the five-month run-up to the Olym-

pics would be a nervous, tense period because of the threat of terrorism.

Possible violence is the biggest doubt in Barcelona, as the world's attention shifts from the winter Olympics to the summer Olympics, which start in the Catalan capital on July 25.

"The games have been a pretext," Señor Maragall, aged 50, says, "to mobilise all the energies that lay dormant in this city." Under his stewardship Barcelona has witnessed a huge development programme, paid for mostly by public money, and it has been done with style. Some of the world's best architects, including Sir Norman Foster, Arata Isozaki, Frank Gehry and Ricardo Bofill, of Catalonia, have left their mark on a city that clearly has pretensions which go beyond the 16 days that the Olympic competitions games will last.

During the games, the Spanish defence ministry is sending 9,000 troops to help the police with security arrangements.

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Gonzalez: furious at warning from Tokyo

Republics to stand by arms timetable

London: The former Soviet republics agreed yesterday to put a key treaty limiting conventional armed forces in Europe into force by mid-July. (Our Foreign Staff writes.) The republics committed themselves to the deadline at a meeting at Nato headquarters to discuss the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, widely seen as the cornerstone of stability in post-Cold War Europe.

The 11 republics are also expected to be admitted to Nato's co-operation council next month. The council, grouping Nato and members of the former Warsaw Pact, will meet on March 10, and is likely also to admit Georgia, which is not a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, provided there is an end to the fighting there.

Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, is likely to discuss the composition of the council during talks to be held soon in Russia, Ukraine and Romania.

Honecker fate

Moscow: Russia said that Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, said to be suffering cancer and kidney trouble, had failed to respond to an offer of hospital treatment, and that his fate lay in the hands of Germany and Chile. (Reuter)

Croatia vote

New York: The United Nations Security Council was due to vote to send more than 13,000 soldiers to Croatia, including 1,200 support troops from Britain. The operation will be the first UN peacekeeping mission on the European mainland.

Border toll

Sofia: Bulgarian border guards killed 444 people trying to flee the former Communist state after 1946. Dimitar Ludev, the defence minister, said 339 were killed between 1946 and 1985, and 105, including 36 foreigners, died after 1985. (Reuter)

Soviet files

Moscow: Over 30 million documents from the Soviet Communist party archives will soon be available to the general public at a documentation centre. The files date from 1952 to last August, when the party was banned after the aborted coup. (AFP)

Racism returns

Paris: Gypsies in Eastern Europe are suffering nationalist prejudice and racial violence reminiscent of the Nazi era. Gypsy leaders from Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Russia said when they met for a seminar on their plight. (AP)

Coalition intact

Helsinki: The Finnish centrist coalition government defeated by 101 votes to 86 a no-confidence motion, introduced by the opposition Social Democrats over economic policy. Unemployment has risen by 110 per cent since last January. (AFP)

Corpse dated

Vieuss: Scientists from Oxford and Zurich universities say carbon dating tests indicate with 95 per cent certainty that the well-preserved remains of a late Stone Age man found in an alpine glacier last year are about 5,300 years old. (Reuter)

Azerbaijan mobilises as rockets pound enclave

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Mubalibov of Azerbaijan yesterday ordered a partial mobilisation of his country's armed forces as rocket fire pounded the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, news agencies reported.

People aged between 20 and 40 with qualifications needed by the army would be called up, the Interfax agency reported. It did not say what backgrounds were being sought or how many men were affected.

The mobilisation decree came just a day after the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed on the need for a ceasefire in a conflict that has claimed more than a thousand lives in over four years of fighting.

Azerbaijan has controlled Nagorno-Karabakh since 1923. The fight with Arme-

nia for its control is the deadliest dispute in the former Soviet Union.

Interfax reported that Azerbaijani forces fired 32 missiles on Stepanakert, the Nagorno-Karabakh capital, on Thursday night. The number of casualties was unknown, it said. Interfax and Itar-Tass said Agdam and Hajaly and a number of Azerbaijani villages in districts bordering Armenia also came under fire.

Itar-Tass said the attack on Hajaly continued into Friday morning. It quoted Azerbaijan's interior ministry as saying the attack was preceded by several hours of artillery and missile assaults from nearby Armenian villages. The agency said Hajaly was badly damaged and several civilians were killed and wounded. Many buildings

were on fire and the town was besieged by Armenian detachments, preventing the evacuation of wounded.

Raghim Gaziyev, chief defence officer in the Azerbaijani-dominated town of Shusha, told Interfax that the shelling of Azerbaijani villages involved tanks and armoured vehicles belonging to a motorised infantry regiment of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Both the Armenian side and the commonwealth armed forces are denying the regiment's involvement. Interfax said, Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the commonwealth military commander, earlier this week urged his forces not to get involved. He said he was prepared to withdraw commonwealth troops from Nagorno-Karabakh unless there was a ceasefire.

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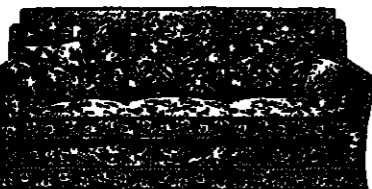
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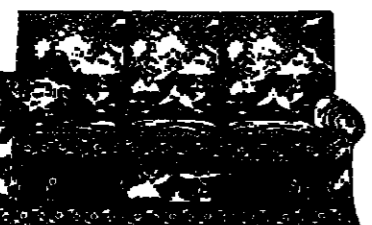
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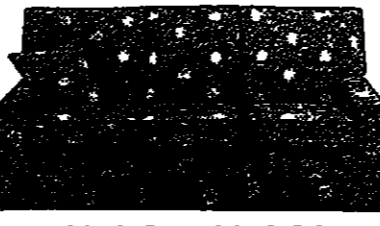
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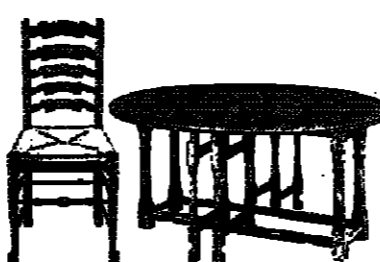
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Lager-inspired philosophy on the succession and earthy hospitality greet royal couple in Outback dustbowl

Sleepy town wakes up to welcome the Queen

Local dignitaries, ladies in their best, and a mob of excited children give the monarch and her entourage a day to remember, writes Joanna Pitman from Dubbo

ROLLING on the veranda outside the Amaroo hotel in Dubbo, a dusty country town of 35,000 lost in the vast immensities of the Australian Outback, three jackaroos were getting stuck into their fifth "juggies" of the morning. Bigger than a pint, bigger still than a "por", the juggies of ice-cold Castle-maine lager, combined with the 110F temperatures, were causing faces to redden and tongues to loosen.

"Nah, that Queen of yours. She should let Charlie Boy 'ave a go. I reckon he'd be better at it," roared Jeff, wiping the sweat from under his hat rim with the front tails of his shirt and revealing a vast and dust-encrusted belly. His neighbour punched it hard, in jest, and reminded him that "their royal hoynesses will be 'ere soon. That's not polite, mate."

Australia as monarch in 1954. Yesterday, she beamed through what must have been the ninth rendition since her arrival of *Waltzing Matilda* and then edged her security guards a little bit closer to coronaries as she marched out to greet the crowds.

Joyce and Brian Edwards, an Aboriginal couple who had made their once a year journey into Dubbo yesterday from their home 200 miles away, were overjoyed. "We live right out in the never-never land. We're real isolated, but we wanted to come and say g'day to the Queen." But their trip to Dubbo was short compared to that of the Stevensons, who had left their 45,000-acre property, 500 miles away, two days earlier to reach Dubbo on time.

"Our property isn't really that big. There are some of 200 or 300 square miles out where we are. We come into Dubbo once every couple of months for supplies, but if the river's up we just have to wait."

The Stevensons are too isolated even for their children to attend school. Instead they are being educated by radio on "School of the Air". Dubbo's School for Distance Education, the nearest broadcasting station, was next on the Queen's itinerary.

Sitting in a studio decorated with finger-paintings sent in by the pupils, the royal couple spoke to some third-grade children by two-way radio. Emily, from Bullara, called to ask: "What's your favourite food, Your Majesty?" Over. The Queen replied that she likes: "All kinds of food. Over." The Duke of Edinburgh could not resist a small dig at his hosts, and said he likes the food of the country he is in, but he was



Heads for heat: the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive in an open Land-Rover at the Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo, New South Wales, yesterday under a blistering sun, during their seven-day visit to Australia

All the rest of Dubbo had turned out brimming with pride and dressed in their Sunday best. Elderly ladies in print dresses vied for positions in the shade of the tall, old eucalyptus trees and men in garage shorts, long socks and lace-ups were left to control the excited children, who darted in and out between legs, wearing miniature bush hats, their noses anointed with white sunblock cream.

"She's in blue today, grandma," piped up a small boy as the royal cavalcade drew up beside the freshly painted bandstand and the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh emerged, followed by a small crocodile of over-cooked private secretaries and their secretaries, flushed equerries, and some burly bodies from Special Branch.

Dubbo, the sleepy dustbowl town that exists to satisfy once-a-month shopping sprees by farmers from outlying districts, had not seen anything like it for years. Only a few could recall when the Queen last came face to face with Dubbo's earthy hospitality during her first visit to

town hall, the royal party was driven out past sprawling tin-roofed bungalows, each car throwing up great swinding eddies of russet dust in its trail from the baked earth tracks. Four thousand fractious children had been waiting for them for four hours at Dubbo's Western Plains Zoo. Worked up into a frenzy by a headmaster calling himself the "cluster director", the orderly cluster suddenly transformed itself into a tiny screaming mob as the Queen's open-topped Land-Rover approached, and dozens of pig-tailed girls collapsed under the strain of the heat and the emotion of it all.

"She's real hot stuff," was the verdict of David Pearce, a freckled, gap-toothed ten-year-old, who lent his raucous voice to the tenth rendition of *Waltzing Matilda* and then raced round to the side of the crowd to catch a glimpse of the Queen receiving perhaps the most awkward souvenirs of her trip — Tilly, a hand-raised koala bear, and Bart, a young orphaned wombat.

After lunch among important Dubbo dignitaries at the

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Bombers raise Chinese fears

Catherine Sampson reports from Peking that a spate of explosions has aroused fears of an Islamic separatist revival on the western border

Police in Urumqi, a city in western China, have been put on alert after a bombing campaign that has reawakened Peking's fear of separatist unrest in the predominantly Muslim region of Xinjiang, bordering the newly independent republics of Central Asia.

The spectre of Islamic revivalism spreading from Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Tajikistan has made Peking conduct its relations with the former Soviet republics with great caution. On Monday, Tere Scenko, the prime minister of Kazakhstan, will arrive in Peking for a four-day visit. His talks are expected to focus on cross-border contacts. Trade has been growing since Moscow lost its hold on the Muslim republics, but Peking fears this may lead to easier access for religious fervour and weapons.

In the latest incident, a bomb exploded on a bus, injuring 26 people. Two other bombs were planted on the same day, one in a cinema and the other on another bus, but they are not believed to have caused any injuries.

Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang, has often been shaken by protests and riots against Peking's rule, but this is the first known case of terrorist bombings in the region. It is not clear whether the bombs were planted by separatists.

China's state-run media have not mentioned the bombings, although they happened almost three weeks ago at Chinese new year. The first reports me from Western diplo-

mats in Peking, who said the attacks appeared to be part of an organised campaign. Chinese officials refused to comment yesterday, but one Westerner in Urumqi said the police were on the streets in large numbers.

A few days after new year, the Xinjiang daily newspaper said a "small handful of people" wanted to cause trouble, but that they could not avoid capture. It did not refer directly to the bombings, but said that troublemakers would be under surveillance.

About 50 people died in April 1990 when police fired at pro-independence rioters in Baren, a town 150 miles from what was then the Soviet border. Peking was alarmed by reports that separatists had smuggled weapons into Xinjiang with the help of Muslim fundamentalists in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Tensions in the region stem from 1881, when China and the Russian Empire split what was once East Turkestan between them. China took Xinjiang, while the bordering areas of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Tajikistan were taken over by Russia. All share a predominantly Uighur, Turkic-speaking population and culture. About 3,000 Chinese Uighurs fled to the Soviet republics in 1948 and during the persecution of the Cultural Revolution.

While there has been massive Han Chinese immigration into Xinjiang since 1949, seven million of the 15 million immigrants are Muslims.

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Clifford Longley

St Augustine's fears still rule in the High Court

The Spanish general Maximus wrote to Pope Siricius in AD 385 to explain why he had killed the bishop Priscillian, to whom belongs the distinction of being the first Christian ever to be executed for heresy. Priscillian had admitted "shameful things of which we cannot speak without blushing," and furthermore he was a Manichee, Maximus told the Pope.

So began in Christendom the long association between sexual deviancy and the criminal law in the name of morality and religion. Religion may have been present only at one remove in the judgment of the Court of Appeal this week in a case concerning a group of homosexual sadomasochists, but morality was there in force. And the morality in question was in direct line of descent from the reasoning of Maximus.

The Manichees still haunt Western culture. They provided the occasion for two formative episodes in the shaping of the European view of sex and marriage, the first at the time of St Augustine of Hippo, a contemporary of Maximus and Priscillian, and the second in the 12th century, when Manicheism reappeared in Europe in the Cathar movement. On both occasions church and state fiercely repudiated Manichean beliefs, in the 12th century with the gross savagery of the Albigensian Crusade. On both occasions sexual deviance was taken as a sign of doctrinal deviance and heresy (one of the reasons "unnatural" sex was punished so severely). Western cultural repugnance at homosexuality may be dated from the latter episode: "bugger" comes from Bulgaria, from where Albigensianism was supposed to have spread westwards.

In doctrine rather than politics, however, being either pro or anti Manichee was not simple. There was a profound ambivalence about sex in Manichean thinking, just as there was in the response. The Manichees believed that sex for reproductive purposes was wrong, for the strange reason that reproduction imprisoned "light", thought to be one of the two principles which warred for ascendancy on earth (the other being "darkness"). To avoid having babies and trapping the light, therefore, some Manichees favoured total abstinence. But others favoured all and any form of sexual activity provided conception was not possible. This was the "lust" of which the Manichees were accused.

In opposition to this, Augustine (himself an ex-Manichee) developed the doctrine that sexual desire or activity was sinful and hence bad — if it did not serve the purposes of reproduction. His morality was therefore the exact opposite of Manichean sexual ethics. And Augustine's influence on sexual ethics can still be felt today.

To the contemporary question, when is sexual arousal good and when is it not, the law of England, according to the Court of Appeal on Wednesday, gives exactly the same answer as Augustine in the fourth century. In the recent case, a group of men had admitted inflicting pain and injury on each other, with mutual consent, for the sake of the sexual pleasure it gave them. But their behaviour was criminal under the Offences Against the Person Act of 1861, the court held, if they were acting "for no good reason". And "satisfying of sado-masochistic libido did not come within the category of good reason", said the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane.

Most reactions to this judgment (as to the original conviction) seemed to be of amazed disbelief, because what was self-evident to Lord Lane and the two accompanying judges had not even occurred to most people as a possibility. Most people thought that with the onset of the permissive society in the early 1960s, British law and morality had finally shaken off St Augustine and the Manichees, and that the idea of "shameful things of which we cannot speak without blushing" had been dumped. Not by the Court of Appeal, evidently.

The reason Augustinianism has proved so persistent may be that while Augustine was officially anti-Manichean, some of his ideas survived in his thinking and have been passed down to us. These ideas seem to appeal to something latent in human psychology, like a key which fits a lock. One Manichean text from Egypt, in a book called the Kephalaia, boldly declares: "It is good to hate one's body," and Augustine too seemed close to hating his body, but because so many of his impulses were bad. In essence, the result of this inheritance is the widespread notion, still betrayed in the smirks, giggles and laws of a not yet permissive society, that sex is dirty. And it still claims its victims.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Considering that the French and English are such close neighbours and that most of the abstract nouns and adjectives in English come from Old French, we misunderstand each other pervasively. The French, who used to mispronounce us all as Major Thompkins, with bowler hats and stiff-upper-lipped moustaches and copies of *The Times* regimentally folded under our arms, now have a rougher and equally untrue stereotype of the English as all yahoo day-trippers to Calais for *le shopping*, stocking up with cases of cheap lager until our roof-racks sag, and categorised by the coarse modern French equivalent of Joan of Arc's Goddams, *les p...-offs*.

Some English people remember just enough French from school to work out that a *pas de deux* is a father of twins, *coup de grâce* is a lawnmower, and *les crudités* are the genitals. The French adopt English words when they have to, but maintain their national pride by pronouncing them in a Frenchified way. So, although they spell him correctly, the French persist in calling the person who serves them drinks on an aeroplane a steward. A committee has pronounced that the word "pipeline" universal in the oil business, must be said in French not *pyeline* but *peepline*.

The latest Frenchism is the grotesque supposedly English word *pin's*, both singular and plural. The French insert as many superfluous apostrophes

into their attempts at English as green grocers. Now, apostrophes in English are a notorious trap, even for native speakers. It is a solemn to put one in Prince's Street, Edinburgh. And, for that matter, why not Prince Street, as in Peterhead? The missing apostrophe is explained because we are dealing not with one prince but two. The title Prince's Street was given to the most spectacularly sited street in Western Europe, now as debauched as Oxford Street with tourist tax, in honour of George III's two sons, afterwards George IV and the Duke of York. If you wanted an apostrophe, it should be Princes' Street. But it can do without one, in opposition.

But in the case of *pin's* (the *etui*, you could say), the comma in the air is a significant clue to what is going on. The *pin's* is a craze for little brooch-type publicity badges to stick in one's lapel, to announce to the world that one belongs to a particular sporting club, or loves beagles, or has some other *fad* or weakness. It is too recent to have been recorded in the glendoid 1987 Collins-Robert dictionary. Since then a mania for collecting the little badges has spread like wildfire through France. The review *L'Express* recently devoted a long article to the *pin's* mania, with pictures of café waiters wearing pinned to their waistcoats dozens of *pin's* given to them by self-advertising customers.

The apostrophe is not a comic Frog mistake with the niceties of English punctuation. It is

invariable in the plural, and has spawned *pin'somania* to describe the collection of lapel stickers. A collector is a *pin'ser*. Here are some recent quotes. From *L'Express*: "Une distribution de *pin's* tricolores." On a coupon with a box of chocolates: "Recevez ce *pin's* de collection — avec deux points *per pin's*."

In France the theory is that the word came from the States, as in fraternity pin. But that apparently superfluous apostrophe is, I think, a little French guide to pronunciation. Without it *pins* would mean conifers, and would be pronounced with a nasal French twang. The apostrophe tells you both that the "s" is sounded, and that the word is spoken in an English way, to rhyme with beans. These are delicate nuances, because *pine* is coarse French slang for the penis. *Revenir avec la pine* sous le bras is modern French idiom to suggest that somebody has suffered a humiliating setback in amatory affairs. With so many near-homophones floating around, the apostrophe acts as a useful little warning signal about how to pronounce this new word.

Mozart wrote to his father from Paris: "If only this damned French language were not so badly fitted for music." On this topic Wolfgang was wrong. Coleridge got it right: "French is the most perspicuous and pointed language in the world." *Pin's* is an example of modern French using a tiny point of punctuation to make a big difference in meaning and pronunciation.

The Baltic states are being asked to give democratic rights to their former oppressors, says Michael Binyon

Unable to forgive or forget



Baltic hope: Lukumiere

Huge concrete blocks barricade the streets, blocking the entrance to Latvia's parliament. Their political message is stark: "Red Army go home," demand the graffiti. In Lithuania's parliament, sandbags are piled in the corridors, where they will stay until the Soviet army pulls out of the Baltic states. Meanwhile the deputies in Riga, Vilnius and Tallinn argue over the problem threatening to undermine their countries' independence and sabotage economic reform: should the Russians in their midst be granted full citizenship? Must the oppressed grant equal rights to their former oppressors?

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are now free, democratic states, anxious to rejoin Europe. But their fragile independence is threatened by the garrisons around their capitals, where 120,000 Soviet soldiers remain encamped. Economic advance is being held back by a rouble currency they can neither throw off nor stabilise and a communist system that meant 95 per cent of their trade was with the Soviet Union. The democracy they so spiritedly proclaim is struggling to rebuild nations

which were virtually erased by 50 years of occupation.

Until the three republics decide who their citizens should be, they cannot advance. Their constitutions remain temporary, their laws unclear, their property reforms frozen. Foreign capital will not flow in until investors know who owns what. Western Europe will not welcome the three into its councils until it is satisfied that human rights are upheld and the rights of minorities guaranteed.

The simplest solution would be to grant citizenship, passports and the vote to all those who were living in the Baltics on August 20, the day the Moscow coup collapsed and the republics broke free. History, demography and emotion make this impossible. During their occupation, Baltic peoples suffered death, deportation, enforced migration and cultural oppression which has permanently changed them. Stalin killed almost a fifth of the population

of Estonia and exiled thousands of others. Moscow sent in waves of Russians to swamp the restless local people. Lithuania managed to keep outsiders at bay, and 80 per cent of its 3.7 million people are Lithuanian. Tiny Estonia fared less well: more than a third of its 1.7 million people came from outside. In Latvia the huge influx has left the Latvians a minority in their own land and left the Latvian language almost as weak as Welsh. Riga, a city of almost one million, is 70 per cent Russian. Many were communists who settled in the houses of those deported to Siberia.

For the Russians, life was good in the Baltics. Army officers and their families remained in retirement, enjoying the

beaches, the relative prosperity, the Western atmosphere. At present some 45,000 live in Latvia alone.

Their sons and daughters, born in the Baltics and loyal to their native land, never thought of themselves as occupiers. Few want to emigrate: most have nowhere to go in Russia. Some are hastily learning the local language, knowing this will be a condition of citizenship. Others are rallying behind the former communists, who have cynically transformed themselves into "Equal Rights" parties. Most, however, are in psychological turmoil, racked by guilt and political division. "We felt that we were living here as in our own country," said a Russian deputy to the Lithuanian parliament. "Now we are cut

off, outside Russia's borders."

The three governments insist they are committed to tolerance. All draw the line however at embracing those who enforced Soviet power, and will deny citizenship to army families and the KGB. How strict should conditions be for other Russians? Estonia has revived its citizenship laws of 1938; Latvia is insisting on 16 years' residence; Lithuania is more relaxed, but is suspicious of its Polish minority around Vilnius, which was Polish until the war.

The West, guilty at its long acquiescence in the Soviet occupation, has a deep interest in helping the tiny republics. All have applied for membership of the Council of Europe, the 26-member organisation at Strasbourg which represents the values of Western pluralist democracy. All the Baltic states know that the Council would have difficulty accepting discriminatory laws. Their presidents and prime ministers this

week admitted to Catherine Lukumiere, the Council's energetic secretary-general, that they need Western help in working out constitutional provisions to restore national pride and reinforce their threatened languages without penalising minorities.

Meanwhile the Soviet army casts its shadow over the debate. Its commanders say they will not leave while Russians' rights are threatened, and negotiations, due to begin next week, look like dragging on for years. The Baltics fear that the West, apart from Scandinavia, is preoccupied with the collapse of the Soviet Union and has forgotten them. They want Western aid to Moscow and the republics to be conditional on withdrawal, but so far only Denmark is setting this condition.

Will the Council of Europe understand the wounds left by occupation and accept the Baltics' tough proposals on citizenship? The Baltics argue that they need the West's immediate support to enable them to foster democracy. In insisting on tolerance in the Baltics, the West should remember that it has never itself been called upon to demonstrate such forgiveness.

Hitler's scientists could have created the atom bomb, but Germany had different goals, writes Nigel Hawkes

Avell has been lifted from one of the most intriguing mysteries of the second world war. Why did the Germans, despite a galaxy of brilliant physicists, fail to develop the atom bomb, while the Americans succeeded?

The Nazi failure was providential. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that the whole future of the West hung on the outcome of the race going on in secrecy between our scientists and theirs. Much of the frantic energy expended at Los Alamos was fuelled by the justified fear that the Germans would solve the problems first, creating a weapon so terrible that it could end the war at a stroke.

Last weekend, the Public Record Office released a fascinating set of transcripts of bugged conversations between the German physicists when they were interned in 1945 at a house called Farm Hall near Cambridge. The existence of these transcripts has long been known, although feebly denied from time to time by British governments. Finally, as a result of pressure from the presidents of the Royal Society and the British Academy, the Lord Chancellor was persuaded to make them public.

The transcripts were the result of some very devious behaviour by the allies. When the "German professors", as they were known, fell into allied hands at the end of the war in Europe, they were interviewed by the American physicist Samuel Goudsmit, who falsely assured them that the Americans had made no progress towards an atom bomb. This was an attempt to draw them out and discover just how far they had got.

Recognising Goudsmit as a fellow scientist they took him at

his word, and were consequently stupefied when told of the attack on Hiroshima by Major Thomas Rittner, the intelligence officer who looked after them at Farm Hall. (Incidentally, my apologies are due to the late Major Rittner's memory for naming him Hugh in an earlier article, a name his widow tells me he particularly disliked.)

What they said in the hours after hearing the news makes gripping reading, and helps to tease out the truth from the myths that have grown up since the war. The earliest of these, propounded by Robert Jungk in his bestseller *Brighter than a Thousand Suns*, was that the German scientists deliberately conspired to prevent Hitler from acquiring the bomb. Jungk portrays them as men brave enough to obey the dictates of their consciences, despite working under a totalitarian regime: better men, indeed, than those who went to Los Alamos.

The alternative view is that the Germans failed because they made mistakes: less glorious, certainly, but perhaps more plausible. However, it now seems that neither of these explanations is correct. The work of the American historian Mark Walker, which the Farm Hall transcripts do nothing to contradict, suggests that the Germans failed as a result of a classic piece of short-termism of the kind Britain is constantly accused of. Professor Walker's work is the basis of a *Horizon* documentary to be shown on BBC 2 at 8.10 pm on Monday.

The evidence is that the Germans were at least as quick to recognise the importance of the discovery of nuclear fission as the scientists in Britain, France and America. This is hardly surprising since they included Otto Hahn, the co-discoverer of



Well ahead of the Americans by 1941: Otto Hahn, co-discoverer of nuclear fission

nuclear fission, and Werner Heisenberg, both of whom had won Nobel prizes. Heisenberg quickly understood what was needed to make an atom bomb, and by December 1941 the German research was in some respects more advanced than the Allied effort.

In weapons programmes, however, the Germans had an embarrassment of riches. Not

only were they developing the bomb, but they also had in train the first cruise missile (the V1), the first ballistic missile (the V2), and the first jet aircraft. The high command was also imbued with the idea of Blitzkrieg, the lightning war that would sweep opposition aside.

At the end of 1941, the German high command took stock. Which of its weapons

programmes could have an impact on the war, assuming that it did not last more than another 18 months? The belief, correct as it turned out, was that if the war was not won for Germany within that time, it would be lost.

The scientists replied that it would take at least two to three more years to create a bomb. As a result, the project was given low priority just at the moment

when the Allied effort was getting into full swing. As Germany came under increasing Allied bombing, only a project with an urgent claim on men and material stood a chance of success. The Germans did not make a bomb, simply because they judged it would take too long.

Primed by Goudsmit to believe that the Allies had made the same decision, the professors at Farm Hall were dumbfounded when they heard the news of Hiroshima. Hahn mocked Heisenberg as a second-rater, while Heisenberg initially thought the whole thing was a bluff. Karl-Friedrich von Weizsacker said that if the German effort had started soon enough, it might have been completed by the winter of 1944-5. If so, it might have had a decisive effect on the war, although the Germans scientists thought not. As one of them, Karl Wirtz, put it: "We would have obliterated London and still not have conquered the world, and then they would have dropped them on us."

Will publication of these transcripts transform the historian's view? Dr Walker believes not. The essence of the conversations has already been reported, in accounts by Goudsmit and by General Leslie Groves, head of the Manhattan Project, who had access to the transcripts long ago.

The Germans could have succeeded, Dr Walker says, only if the research effort had been increased from 70-odd people in 1941 to the tens of thousands employed by the Americans. Yet ironically, it was the fear that the Nazis would be first that inspired Einstein to write his famous letter to Roosevelt, the letter that gave the project the impetus in America that it lacked in Germany. Suppose instead someone had written such a letter to Hitler. The German professors might have had their own General Groves and an army of helpers. They would probably have succeeded. On such small things does history turn.

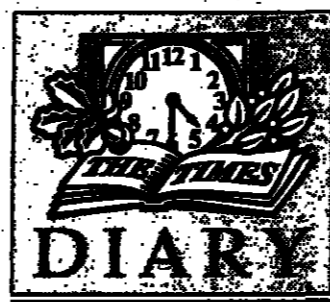
First families stick together

JACKIE KENNEDY ONASSIS, who was so intimately bound up with one of America's greatest legends, has become enthralled by Russia's most enduring 20th-century myth.

Onassis, who now works in publishing, is currently editing fresh evidence from Russia which suggests that while Tsar Nicholas II's daughter Anastasia was murdered with her parents, another of his four daughters escaped. The widow of President Kennedy has become obsessed with discovering the truth about what happened in the Bolshevik massacre of the Tsar's family in 1918. She plans to publish the research later this year in translation in America, simultaneously with publication in Russia.

The research is the work of Edward Radzinsky, the Russian historian who ten years ago discovered in previously closed Moscow archives the diaries of the Tsar and Tsarina Alexandra, including entries made by the Romanovs just hours before their execution. Fascinated by what he discovered, Radzinsky tracked down the children of the Tsar's guards and of members of the firing squad. Further detective work uncovered unpublished photographs, which appear to show the Bolsheviks attempting to recover the bodies of the family after they had been thrown down a mineshaft.

Radzinsky has concluded that there is evidence that one child did not die in the massacre, although it was not Anastasia, who is most commonly associated with the story. Radzinsky is not yet prepared to divulge which of the daughters he believes escaped, or whether he has succeeded in tracking her down. But Onassis is



convinced, and will publish the results of the research in July. Lon Trevin, the editorial director of Hodder & Stoughton, has just returned from New York, where he discussed the material with Onassis. "You have to keep pinching yourself when you read it. Jacqueline is so caught up by the story of the massacre. But this, perhaps, is one mystery she can help solve."

A new set of forecasts has been added to John Major's red boxes at the end of each day. On top of the Treasury's less than reliable predictions, the prime minister has asked civil servants to include long-range forecasts from the meteorological office. Checking to see if voters will need broileries on April 9?

Carey wades in

DR GEORGE CAREY, the Archbishop of Canterbury, will offer a discreet endorsement of the ordination of women next month, when he will be the guest of honour at the first night of a play on the subject. With a synod vote due in November, Carey has observed a careful silence on the subject since his comments in favour of women clerics provoked storms of protest last year. But advocates of the ordination of women are delighted at his agreement to at-

tend, which they see as giving a clear message to waverers.

The play, *Body and Soul*, features Robert Hardy (*All Creatures Great and Small*) playing a bishop grappling with the problem of one of his parish priests who has a sex change.



GED

Unlikely helpers

LYNDA CHALKER's prospects of retaining her seat have suffered what could be a fatal blow. Labour's National Executive has blocked the selection of a hard left Trotskyist candidate standing in her constituency. There are those who say Lol Duffy was her best chance of holding Wallace, one of the most marginal seats in the country. Her majority is only 279. Duffy is closely linked with the Socialist Organisation group, which is now banned by Labour.

Duffy's candidature was instrumental in helping Chalker hold the seat in 1987, and when he secured 24 nominations from the local party this time, her hopes soared. But they dived again this week when the NEC ruled him ineligible, leaving Angela Eagle, an impeccably moderate trade union official, as Chalker's likely oppo-

nent in one of the seats Labour most hopes to win.

Duffy's supporters, however, seem to be doing their best to save Chalker. "Some members are saying they are sending their cards back, and others are saying they won't vote Labour," says a disgruntled Duffy. Even if Chalker does lose, it may not be the end of her political career. She is tipped to become Britain's first woman EC commissioner, whatever the stripe of the next government.

For the first time, the Consumers' Association has investigated communion wine. Which Wine Monthly invited an ecumenical panel to try a range of bottles ranging from *Vino Sacro* to *Mission Bell*. The tasters unanimously declared that the wines failed to meet the demands of the Anglican canon that they should be "good and wholesome". The comments ranged from "yuck, sweet and nasty" to "unspeakable, something from the chemist's..."

Bowing out

THE strings will weep with a purpose this weekend. Britain's oldest violin-makers, W.E. Hill, have gone into liquidation after more than 300 years in business. The company's place in history was secured by Samuel Pepys when he recorded in his diary 1660: "In ye morning came Mr Hill, ye instrument maker, and I consulted with him about ye altering my lute and my viol."

Andrew Hill, the current senior director, who joined the firm in 1959, says: "The company just does not fit today's market. The company's records will go under the auctioneer's hammer. I see this move as another of the metamorphoses that the company has periodically gone through during its long history," says Hill bravely.



JUDGMENT ON FRAUD

The hearing at Southwark Crown Court yesterday at the tail end of the Guinness II fraud case will not see the end of public concern. The two defendants, Lord Spens and Roger Seelig, have been spared further criminal proceedings while in the eyes of the outraged public the processes of the criminal law have been tried and found wanting. Yet the upholders of the law, from the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, downwards, have little to say except to declare their blind faith in the jury system.

That is nothing like enough to restore confidence. Those who live in legal ivory towers seem completely unaware how cynical the public has become as a result of the abandonment of the Seelig case on medical grounds. If the unsatisfactory outcome of that trial is to be even reluctantly accepted, there must be a quid pro quo. The way the law handles fraud cases must now rapidly be reviewed and reformed.

When Roger Seelig first stood trial he chose to conduct his own defence. Eventually Mr Justice Henry stopped the trial on the ground that a man whose mental state had deteriorated so much could no longer defend himself effectively. Perhaps the judge was right, though nobody can point to any instance where someone facing a murder trial was released by the judge because of his mental state. Perhaps the head of the Serious Fraud Office, Barbara Mills, QC, was right not to start the case all over again, though it meant writing off a considerable investment in public money; and by a second trial Mr Seelig might either have recovered his wits or appointed counsel. Perhaps the SFO was right not to proceed any further against Mr Seelig's co-defendant, Lord Spens, who was and is mentally fit. And had their trial reached a conclusion, they might well have been acquitted.

The upholding of justice and honour in the City, and the maintenance of public confidence in the criminal law, never depended upon these particular men being found guilty. But confidence does depend on the system being seen to be adequate to carry such cases through to a proper conclusion, not buckling and breaking under the strain half way through. It depends on the public

believing that the law is being applied even-handedly, not a soft law for the rich, a hard one for the rest.

The last line of defence against City fraud has to be the criminal law, with cases investigated and prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office. But it should not be the first line of defence, which is what it has become. Instead, London should now follow Wall Street where there is an alternative instrument of discipline, the Securities and Exchange Commission. It has the power to apply large financial penalties to those who break the rules; and defendants may be offered an SEC hearing as an alternative to a criminal trial. The SEC decides cases according to the standard of the civil courts, on the balance of probability, rather than requiring proof of guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

Sometimes the SEC and the criminal prosecutor's office will apply a pincer movement to a fraud suspect, who then opts to admit the infringement and pay a large penalty in return for not being prosecuted in the courts. Sometimes prosecution and defence engage in plea-bargaining — not permitted in Britain — whereby a defendant agrees to plead guilty to some or all charges in return for knowing and agreeing in advance what the sentence will be. Such guilty pleas after plea-bargaining can save large amounts of time and money.

There is thus far more scope for fine tuning, for the ingenious and efficient use of disciplinary powers, statutory or self-regulatory, singly or in combination, in the American system. A series of financial rogues who have had exemplary punishment under that system might well have escaped justice under the less flexible British arrangements. There is surprisingly little complaint that American methods lead to unjust results. And there is no way American defendants can fall through the net by being taken mentally ill.

The criminal jury trial can no longer stand as the only available means for the correction of alleged City fraud. Expensive and elaborate, it can put a squallid crime on a pedestal. If London is to compete with Wall Street and elsewhere on financial services, one of the areas it must compete in is the excellence of its supervision and discipline.

THE BOER KOMMANDO

Change in South Africa is always a process, never a crisis. President F.W. de Klerk announced this week a "high noon" white referendum on his handling of reform, in response to his party's loss of the Putsch-stroom by-election. Seldom, even in South Africa, has a white leader shown such deft tactical command of his forces in retreat. The Conservative party has shown that it might defeat the Nationalists in a constituency-based white general election. So Mr de Klerk has called a swift personal vote of confidence, in which he can rely on liberal Democratic party votes. He should thus win.

Ever since the release of Nelson Mandela two years ago, South Africa has seemed set on an unstoppable course towards black majority rule. The timing of this course might be obscure, but not its eventual destination. That remains true. But as long as "eventual" is undefined, white South Africans can play for delay and comfort themselves by muttering "in the long run we are all dead". They can impede Mr de Klerk and scare whites as well as blacks with a threat of counter-revolution and mayhem. There has never been just another colonial regime from which Europeans can scuttle when the going gets hard. These whites are Africans and will fight for their land.

Mr de Klerk has shown skill in sustaining peace and order through the past two years of talks. He has been aided by the extraordinary moral sway Mr Mandela holds over his followers in the African National Congress, a grouping that could well have fallen apart under the strain of negotiation. Rarely has a nation been blessed with two such leaders. Power — military, economic and political — in South Africa still rests in white hands. Slowly it is shifting. More

control is passing to black policemen, to local political and tribal leaders, to ANC negotiators behind the scenes. Economic decisions are already being influenced by ANC lobbyists. But this is still a white-run country.

Over a third of whites want to keep it that way, and without the equivocation of Mr de Klerk's Nationalists. This proportion is probably rising. Mr de Klerk's interim strategy must be to make it fall, or he will have to abandon the white constituency altogether and seek non-white legitimacy. That would truly mean the end of white rule. His final throw might be to make the referendum national, though that would have meant abandoning his promise to give the whites a veto over any constitutional reform. He clearly feels such an act of desperation is not required of him — yet.

At present Mr de Klerk's tactic is to convince the whites that he is the best person to handle any transition to whatever the future holds, always to remain the arbiter of the process of change. He stands between South Africa and disorder, whether from black left or white right. He must play the Boer kommando, feinting, darting, stabbing, retreating, always keeping the initiative.

The right will have its days. It will win by elections, stage military rallies, commit atrocities, dream of Afrikaner castles in the sky, or at least homelands in the bush. It may even help persuade constitution builders that while ethnic pluralism cannot be entrenched, geographic pluralism can partly reflect it and offer some safeguard of democratic and human rights. But that persuasion must be exerted through the leadership of Mr de Klerk. On that leadership the future of peace in South Africa still wholly relies.

CURSE OF THE NILE

The news that tour operators are cutting their Nile cruises because of falling water levels, congestion, the Nilotic equivalent of giant water lilies, and official misinformation about the state of the river, is a classic example of what economists call a positional good: when everyone is somebody, then no one's anybody. Cruising up to Luxor was grand when done in style by the adventurous rich in feluccas, with squads of bearers and dragomans, or possibly dragomen (either plural is acceptable in English). Modern mass marketing of exotic travel has turned the Nile into something as cheaply nasty as the traffic jam at Boulder's lock.

But the drying up of the Nile illustrates older truths than modern economics: the folly of mucking about with nature; the peculiarly English obsession with Egyptology. If Isis and Osiris had wanted a dam at Aswan, they would have built one. The earliest records in civilisation declare that Egypt is the gift of the Nile. Like Russian babushka dolls, the old English word *alchemy* hides a Greek word, and thence a very old Egyptian word contrasting the black earth created by the flooding of the Nile with the yellow land of the surrounding desert.

Napoleon, an honorary Englishman for one thing only, his passion for Egypt, said that under a good administration the Nile gains on the desert, under a bad one the desert gains on the Nile. The Aswan dam and nine successive years of drought in the Ethiopian Highlands have desiccated the annual inundation with catastrophic results.

That number nine is ominous. When somebody somewhere is angry about Egypt, plagues come ninefold. The annual flood is

no longer scouring out the silt from the river bed. For the first time, Egyptian farmers are having to fertilise their soil artificially, instead of having it done naturally for them by the sediment brought down by the inundation. Any old Egyptology freak can tell that no good will come of this. It will not be long before Boris Karloff, cocooned in rotting bandages and making strange noises, comes as dragoman to bring the mummy's curse to Luxor luxury cruises.

The fabulous Nile is a gigantic crocodile that winds its way back through the English imagination. It twists, mysterious and ungraspable, from Sir John Mandeville, the original gushing travel correspondent, who asserted that the Nile rose in Paradise and ran through the deserts of India, before diving under ocean and re-emerging to make Egypt, to *Death on the Nile*, which is the most popular film in the United Kingdom, and has become as much a part of Christmas television as the Queen's broadcast.

It is not safe to monkey about with nature in Egypt. No good ever came from answering the riddle of the Sphinx. Aquarian ley lines link the Great Pyramid with Stonehenge, and the Thames with the Nile. Ever since *The Times* sponsored Howard Carter in his quest for Tutankhamun, fate has dogged those who meddle with the old gods. The secret hid under Cheops's pyramid — apart from the facts that the design was universally condemned for its new brutality, and the contract was completed a century late and billions over budget — is that the Nile is not mocked. Not even by its fans, the English. Drop a bomb on the Aswan dam today, before it is too late.

Action lagging on global warming

From the Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy

Sir, The Department of Energy has just published figures for UK consumption of fuel during 1991. They show a substantial increase in energy use over 1990, repeating the increase between 1989 and 1990. Conversely, gross domestic product during this period declined.

This is the exact reverse of trends between 1973 and 1988. Then we witnessed a substantial (33 per cent) growth in GDP, whilst simultaneously reducing in absolute terms the amount of energy consumed. Consequently upon this recent growth in energy demand has been an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted. Carbon dioxide is the principal gas responsible for global warming and results mainly from burning fossil fuels.

In 1990 the government committed Britain to a policy of stabilisation of carbon dioxide emissions. This was to be achieved by 2005, although subsequently we became signatories to a European Community target not to increase carbon dioxide levels beyond the year 2000. This commitment will form an important plank in the European position at the United Nations Earth Summit in Brazil this June, which our prime minister is due to attend. The intention of the Earth summit is to encourage other OECD countries to make commitments, initially to stabilise, then to reduce, carbon dioxide emissions.

In the light of the recent increase in these emissions — which per se seems to date from the time we agreed to stabilise them — it will be increasingly difficult for the government's global warming policy to seem credible in the international arena. Investment levels in readily identifiable energy efficient items like insulation or heating controls have declined by 28 per cent over the past two years.

When the much-heralded environmental white paper, *This Common Inheritance*, was published, a series of specific commitments was made to step up the government's energy efficiency activities. This was because, as the white paper stated, it is "the cheapest and quickest way of combating global warming". Eighteen months on, and four months before the Earth Summit, overt action on this front is desperately needed. Otherwise the rise in energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions will continue inexorably.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN, Director,
Association for the Conservation of Energy,
9 Sherlock Mews, W1,
February 18.

Hunting cause

From Mr Jack Arkinstall

Sir, I deplore the growing practice of using children, particularly young ones, in the furtherance of some cause or other. An example of this is shown in the picture on the front page of *The Times* (February 14) where a small child in riding gear is holding a placard with the inscription "Hunting is my future".

What does a child of such tender years know about hunting, or, for that matter, any other adult cause? Yours sincerely,
JACK ARKINSTALL,
99 Beach Road, Selby,
Chichester, West Sussex.

From Mr Martin Willcox
Sir, Lady Donaldson claims ("Hunting the blood", February 14) that the fox is "a predator of a wretchedly vicious kind. He kills not merely to eat but for the sake of killing". This seems to me an excellent description of *Homo sapiens*.

Yours truly,
MERLIN WILLCOX,
Shaftgate, Paddock Lane,
Selby, nr Chichester, West Sussex.

Old-style Sundays

From the Reverend H. D. Dupree

Sir, I am sorry to see in Saturday's listing of church services (February 15) your replacement of Septuagesima Sunday (Book of Common Prayer) with "Ninth Sunday before Easter" (Alternative Service Book).

A music-loving priest friend of mine was fond of telling me that Toscanini used to say that the great secret of maintaining the shape and coherence of a piece of music lay in managing the transitions from one thing to another. The three "gestima" Sundays formed just such a bridge between Epiphany and Lent. Any chance of a last-minute reprieve for Septuagesima and Quinquagesima?

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS DUPREE (Chaplain),
Balliol College, Oxford.

Origin of the kilt

From Mr A. J. S. MacLennan

Sir, Kate Muir, in an article on the Glasgow Celtic ("The rising of the clans", Life & Times, February 17) gives space to the old suggestion that the kilt is "an English invention and perversion of tartan". The author of this colourful and entertaining idea was Evan Baillie, of Abriachan in Inverness-shire who deliberately peddled the deception around Edinburgh in March 1785.

Evan Baillie was a distinguished lawyer, Pictish antiquarian and bore, and at the time feared prosecu-

Mortgage rescue: success or failure?

From the Director-General of the Council of Mortgage Lenders

Sir, Councillor Margaret Moran (letter, February 18) refers to "the likely failure of the mortgage rescue schemes" and calls for government intervention. The schemes are not failing. Mortgage lenders are already helping to keep thousands of people in their homes who, through no fault of their own, are unable to maintain full mortgage repayments.

Schemes that involve owner-occupiers becoming tenants are just one part of the overall rescue package. The decisive government action to ensure that income support paid to meet mortgage interest payments is used for that purpose will also significantly reduce the number of possessions.

The problem needs to be seen in context. Lenders are making a concerted effort to deal with the mortgage arrears problem, and this in itself attracts publicity, some of which is bound to be critical. Statistics from the Lord Chancellor's department show that local authori-

ties are just as likely to seek court action for possession as are mortgage lenders, even though local authority tenants have more generous state assistance available to them.

Southwark Council, for instance, announced on February 5 that it would evict 1,250 tenants for rent arrears this year. Tenants of Alnwick District Council who fall into rent arrears will receive just one warning letter before the council begins legal proceedings. There are problems throughout housing which require a concerted approach from people in positions of responsibility.

Some of the critical comment about the efforts of mortgage lenders to deal with the problem in their sector seems to stem more from a wish to score points rather than a constructive approach to deal with the problem.

Yours faithfully,
MARK BOLEAT,
Director-General,
Council of Mortgage Lenders,
3 Savile Row, W1,
February 18.

Political balance and the health service

From Dr Michael Joy

Sir, Labour's proposals for the National Health Service (report, February 14) have a certain symmetry with the reorganisation taking place under the Tories. Specifically, the suggestion that "hospitals which treat too many patients... will be penalised the following year" underscores the impression that neither party has grasped the crucial problem that faces the NHS — uncontained demand and significant underfunding.

Last weekend, when the medical team at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, was responsible for emergency admissions, fewer than 20 patients were admitted. Unfortunately there were only three medical beds into which to admit them: surgical and gynaecological beds had to be borrowed and operating lists cancelled.

The duty administrator had to telephone ten district hospitals to the south-west of London before he could identify one who could back us up if we became full and had to transfer acutely ill patients to other hospitals. The previous weekend when we were "on take", 16 hospitals were approached and there was no coronary

care bed that we could identify closer than Bristol, a hundred miles away. Whether the patient's charter?

A number of claims made for the present reorganisation are deceitful. The money does not follow the patient unless he/she leaves his own health district for another one, and only then by agreement by contract or as an ECR (extra-contractual referral) for which limited funds are available. As a result, our unit, which has suffered a reduction in its medical bed complement of 22 per cent and has seen an increase in its throughput of 24 per cent and in overall activity of about 11 per cent, will receive no more money next year for its increased activity.

GP budget holding, the "flagship" of the changes, is leading not only to queue-jumping of NHS patients by NHS patients, but diversion of funding into the private sector as fundholding GPs seek "private" treatment of NHS patients. The result will be further strain of an already severely strained service, and profit for the private hospitals at public expense.

I remain, yours faithfully,
MICHAEL JOY
(Consultant cardiologist),
Cedar House, Longcross Road,
Longcross, Surrey,
February 15.

Car prices compared

From Dr David Weitzman

Sir, The Monopolies and Mergers Commission's recent report (details, Business, February 6) concludes that private purchasers of new cars in Britain pay more than they should. The car market is clearly complex and its subtleties are probably beyond the average buyer, but I am sure not alone in being amazed at the huge difference in car prices between the UK and US.

On a visit to the US last month I noted advertised new 1992 car prices, which I compare with identical models on sale in Britain (£1.8 - £11.1 all prices in £):

| | UK | US | Ratio |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Audi 100 | 24,800 | 14,400 | 1.7 |
| BMW 525 | 24,800 | 16,870 | 1.4 |
| Honda Accord | 14,720 | 8,230 | 2.3 |
| Honda Civic saloon | 12,000 | 5,380 | 2.2 |
| Jeep 625 | 12,880 | 8,670 | 1.9 |
| Toyota Camry | 18,000 | 7,710 | 2.3 |
| Toyota Corolla | 12,700 | 4,550 | 2.8 |

American-made cars are similarly low priced. A handsome new luxury Cadillac may be had for £13,110. Are these simply the result of economies of scale or are there other significant factors which we might usefully introduce in the UK?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WEITZMAN,
41 Hollybush Road,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

York reconstruction

From the Chairman, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Sir, Your enthusiastic report (February 8) on the reconstruction of the medieval Barley Hall in the centre of York raises a number of key issues which need to be addressed before any more such destructive works are allowed to be carried out on listed buildings in the cause of archaeology.

The building, which is better known as Coffee Yard, can hardly be described as having been forgotten. It has stood in the centre of the city for many centuries and over the years all sorts of additions and alterations had been made to it, some good, some poor but all becoming a part of its history. At the core remained the original building. Because of its importance the whole complex was listed and therefore given statutory protection.

Now that the work has been

Lords and ladies

From Lord Beloff

Sir, If Ms Lesley Abdela is right (letter, February 15) to claim that I inhabit "that most ivory of ivory towers" the House of Lords, it does at least enable me to know what goes on there, and not rely like Ms Abdela on irrelevant statistics.

At the moment the House is dealing with a Local Government Finance Bill, piloted for the government by Lady Blatch and opposed by Labour by Lady Hollis of Heigham and for the Liberal Democrats by Lady Hamwee. It is also dealing with an Education (Schools) Bill piloted by Lady Blatch and Lady Denton of Wakefield and opposed by Labour by Lady Blackstone and for the Liberal Democrats by Lady Secar.

This hardly suggests that women play a minor part in the business of the House. On the contrary, looking at the important contributions made to legislation by for instance Lady Faithfull and Lady Darcy de Knayth, one is sometimes tempted to wonder whether it was this state of affairs that John Knox had in mind when he wrote of "the monstrous regiment of women."

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
House of Lords,
February 15.

carried out only 9 per cent of the original frame survives and virtually none of the later (and listed) alterations. By taking it down to ground level prior to reconstructing it, the entire history of the building has been destroyed, leaving what is left as a lifeless museum object and not part of a living building. It is now virtually worthless as an object of serious study because of the destruction wrought to recreate yet another contribution to our Disneyland heritage.

If we need to build medieval houses for tourists, let this be done on virgin sites and not at the expense of a real part of our history and not — as in this lamentable case — with contributions from public funds.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BOUTWOOD, Chairman,
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,
37 Spital Square, E1,
February 13.

legal ban on the kilt was lifted by personal wish of George III to mark the fidelity of the Highland prisoners of war after the loss of Yorktown in 1781. This gave Baillie the origin of his idea to kill the kilt. He died in 1788 or 89 before being prosecuted, in great agony and screaming for forgiveness.

I discussed this with a Highland gentleman from Wester Ross a few years ago. His only reply was, "Anyone who thinks that an Englishman invented the kilt must be mad".

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS MACLENNAN,
16 Sporniswood Street, Edinburgh.

Keeping the ell at arm's length

From Mr G. S. Howlett

Sir, The *Oxford English Dictionary* tells me that the medieval measure of length, the ell, derived from the Latin *ulna*, i.e., the forearm, and Brewer tells me that it denoted the distance from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. Brewer goes on to say that French ells were a yard and a half (54in), English ells 45in, Scotch ells 37in whilst Flemish ells were a paltry three quarters of a yard (27in).

My own personal ell as defined by Brewer is a mere 19in. I am 72in tall, my forearm thus representing 26 per cent of my total body length. Believing myself to be of more or less standard proportions and not subject to any noticeable deformity, I assume that this ratio of forearm to body height may be taken as representative of average modern man.

Applying this percentage to Brewer's figures, I calculate that the following approximate heights may be attributed to our medieval forebears: French: 17ft 4in; English: 14ft 4in; Scots: 11ft 10in; Flemish: 8ft 8in.

This apparently contradicts my hitherto held assumption that in Europe at least we are growing taller on average. Are we in fact variable pygmies compared with our ancestors or have the OED and Brewer got it all wrong?

Yours faithfully,
G. S. HOWLETT,
Croft Cottage Restaurant,
Riverside, Bourn-on-the-Water,
Gloucestershire.

Notices of coding

From Mr Gordon Connolly

Sir, As a chartered accountant in public practice I commend Mr Deacon, Director of Operations, Inland Revenue (letter, February 12), to descend from his ivory tower into the real world. Ninety per cent of the notices of codings sent to me by clients are incorrect. The four that arrived on my desk last week were all inaccurate.

I am afraid that the statement that each code reflects the latest information is seldom true. I have written to three separate inspectors of taxes this week alone suggesting that the filing of income tax returns is rather a waste of time as they are ignored in relation to reliefs and allowances claimed.

These continuous errors, which presumably have something to do with computerisation, result in a waste of paper and time on the part of Inland Revenue staff and practising accountants, and involve taxpayers in professional costs which in commercial terms should be met from public funds.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
GORDON CONNOLLY,
A. J. Connolly & Co.,
Clare, Cold Ash,
Newbury, Berkshire,
February 17.

Weekend Money letters, page 24

Gifted children

From the Chairman, Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children

Sir, Your report (February 15) wrongly suggested that the members of the "ruling committee of Mensa" have "mutinied" against me as honorary president of International Mensa and chairman of the Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children (MFGC). The ruling committee of Mensa in the British Isles is the committee of British Mensa. This has not split or questioned my work for gifted children.

The breakaway group has been from the advisory committee to the Mensa foundation. As its chairman, I appointed the committee on behalf of the trustees of the charity. The British committee has taken responsibility for the foundation and unanimously supports me as continuing chairman of the MFGC, as do the other trustees.

There cannot be too many groups working in this field. The nation needs to identify its potential ability as early as possible and provide the suitable specialist education for the high flyers upon whom future prosperity so much depends. The MFGC is still going well.

Yours sincerely,
VICTOR SEBRIAKOFF,
Chairman,
Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children,
Flat One, 6 The Paragon, SE3,
February 19.

Royal salute

From Mr Kenneth H. Ross

Sir, Australians cheered their head of state when she arrived in Sydney. The Australian republican, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, observes that they also cheer when Madonna turns up, but it doesn't mean they want her as their queen ("Royalty on trial", February 20). Quite so; most sensible.

They presumably don't want Her Majesty as a pop star, either. Just like us, really.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH H. ROSS,
Wellbank Mains Farm,
Wellbank, Angus,
February 19.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

OBITUARIES

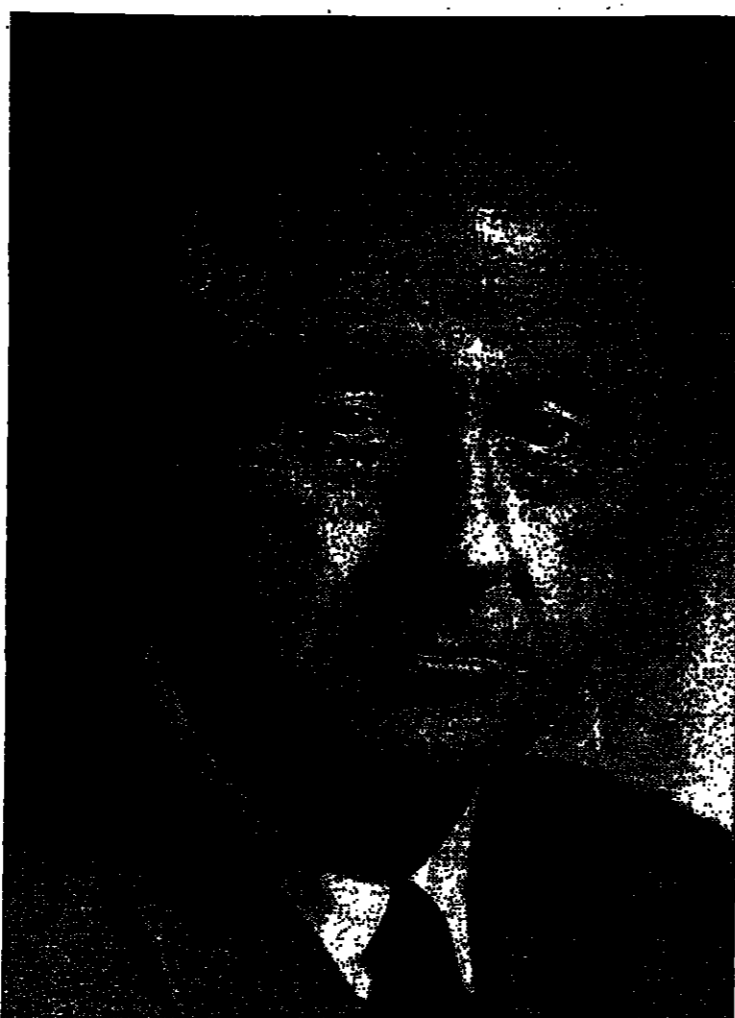
EUGENE BLACK

Eugene Robert Black, president of the World Bank from 1949 to 1962, died in his sleep at his home in Southampton, Long Island, on February 20 aged 93. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 1, 1898.

THROUGHOUT most of his presidency of the World Bank, Eugene Black was probably the best-known financial figure in the world, both as head of an independent agency providing aid for development projects in some 60 countries, and as a vigorous advocate of development assistance and critic of policies that he believed hampered economic progress. Although he himself had played no part in the founding of the World Bank and had only a small share in establishing its fundamental policies, it was under his leadership that it emerged as perhaps the most successful of the international organisations set up in the wake of the second world war. Few men have done more than this apparently conventional American banker to raise the living standards of the poorer peoples of the world.

Eugene Robert Black came of a prominent Southern family: his father, Eugene R. Black, Sr., was governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and served as governor of the Federal Reserve Board; his maternal grandfather, Henry Grady, was a famous Southern editor in the Reconstruction period. Black was educated at the University of Georgia, and later served in the US Navy during the first world war. After the war he pursued for a quarter of a century a successful but entirely conventional banking career. For some years he was Atlanta representative for a New York investment bank; later he assumed responsibility for the Southern offices of its successor company, the Chase-Norris Bank. In 1933 he moved to New York, joining the Chase National Bank, of which he became a vice-president in 1937. He was primarily concerned there with the New York bond market and he acquired a reputation as an extraordinarily skilful salesman of bonds.

Black's association with the World Bank began in 1947. The Bank, a child of the Bretton Woods confer-



ence, had begun operations the previous year. It had been slow to find its feet, partly because of disagreement over the respective roles of its management and nationally appointed board of directors, partly because its available resources, consisting of little more than the United States subscription, were clearly inadequate for the task of financing post-war reconstruction and economic development.

When John J. McCloy was appointed president of the Bank, Black was brought in to support him as executive director representing the United States. It was hoped that Black's influence in Wall Street,

Black was appointed senior vice-president of the Chase Manhattan Bank and prepared to return to private banking. Shortly afterwards, however, McCloy became High Commissioner in Germany, and Black was chosen to succeed him as president of the World Bank.

There followed 13 years of unbroken success for Black and the Bank. The Bank's borrowing operations were widened to include most of the world's capital markets. Its lending rate increased gradually from about 5.50 million to £250 million a year, and it accompanied its loans with a steadily broadening range of technical assistance services. Black jealously maintained the Bank's independence and professional standards. He displayed a conservatism (particularly on the subject of the role of private enterprise in development) that sometimes provoked irritated criticism but which was largely responsible for the high standing of the Bank in circles that looked with little enthusiasm on other international organisations. This high standing ensured that the Bank was always able to raise as much money as it needed for its lending; it also gave great influence to Black's calls for increased support for the international aid effort. Although conservative, Black was always willing to consider new ideas, and it was with his enthusiastic approval that the Bank acquired two new affiliates that took it into the fields of equity and low-interest lending.

Black's genuine and deeply-felt concern for the needs and aspirations of the developing countries, his personal friendship with many of their leaders and his obvious independence, led to his mediation of several disputes between member countries of the Bank. Together with his deputy, Sir William Iliff, he reconciled the financial claims of Britain, Egypt and the Suez Canal Company after the crisis of 1956 and in 1960 brought about a settlement of the Indian waters dispute between India and Pakistan. It was on his initiative also that consortia of lending countries were formed under the Bank's leadership to co-ordinate efforts to finance the development plans of India and Pakistan. Black was troubled by ill health in

his final years at the Bank and he resigned in December 1962 some months before expiry of his term of office. Subsequently he renewed his connection with the Chase Manhattan Bank but he did not lose his interest in the problems of economic development: he served in 1963 on the Clay Committee that examined US aid policies.

Retirement from the World Bank meant little slackening of pace for Eugene Black. He was immediately appointed special financial consultant to the United Nations, in which post he not only marketed the organisation's bonds, but took on the less than popular task of dunning member nations for their arrears of contributions.

At the same time he was made chairman of the Brookings Institution — one of the foremost Washington "think-tanks" — and became a director of *The New York Times*, the Chase Manhattan Bank, the Equitable Life Assurance Company, the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company, American Express and several other companies and financial institutions. He also served as financial adviser to the ruler of Kuwait in the 1960s and was chairman of the John F. Kennedy Library.

Tall, sparely built, with a relaxed air and a voice that proclaimed his Georgian origins, Black was a man of great personal charm. His interests were not limited to banking: he was an enthusiast for both baseball and Shakespeare and he gave much of his time to service on the boards of many educational and charitable foundations.

Black's trusteeships included Johns Hopkins University, the Institute for International Education, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Ford Foundation. In his seventies, however, he began to give up most of his business activities and he and his wife, who at one time had four homes, finally retired to their house on Long Island.

Eugene Black's first wife, Dolly, died in 1928. He remarried in 1930 and is survived by his second wife, Susan, two sons and one daughter.

GEN JAMES POLK

General James Hilliard Polk, who led the US Army's 3rd Cavalry Regiment under General Patton following D-Day died on February 18 aged 80. He was born on December 13, 1911.

JAMES Polk won his medals in action — he fought under General George Patton — but his chief claim to fame was as a determined commander in the more subtle conflict of the Cold War. Appointed United States commandant in Berlin in January 1963, he took over responsibility for the divided city at a time of extreme tension and soon made clear his determination to stand up to Soviet bloc harassment.

His first major test came in November of that year, when a US Army convoy was detained for 41 hours by Soviet troops on the highway corridor between West Berlin and West Germany. Polk declared that the blockade was a deliberate attempt "to call the shots on Allied access to Berlin," adding, "We are determined that they shall not." The Soviets backed down.

In July 1964 while East Germany was building concrete and steel barriers along

the border to stop refugees from using trucks to ram their way into West Berlin, Polk made a speech pledging that the United States and its allies would continue to defend their section of the city "just as long as necessary."

An expert in armoured warfare, Polk emphasised training in small-unit combat tactics, and was also noted for working to halt racial friction and deterioration in troop morale. After his stint in Berlin he stayed in Europe, commanding the United States Corps in Frankfurt. Promoted to 4-star general, he went on to command both the 7th Army in Germany and all American forces in Europe from 1967 until his retirement in 1971.

Polk, who graduated from West Point in 1933 and became a brigadier general in 1956, was a firm believer in the necessity for a powerful American presence in central Europe as an anti-war deterrent. Soon after his retirement he challenged "influential voices" who wanted to see a reduction in the force.

James Polk is survived by his wife, Josephine, a son and daughter.

APPRECIATIONS

Lord Dulverton

IT WOULD not be possible to fit into a single obituary (February 19) reference to all Lord Dulverton's commitments worldwide or the good he achieved. It was perhaps no coincidence that his wartime service was with the Lovat Scouts for he had a sizeable dash of Scottish blood in his veins and an immense regard for the Scots, and he gave much of his time to work on the rural scene North of the Border.

Having been a long serving and active member of the Red Deer Commission and the Scottish committee of the Nature Conservancy Council (amongst many other bodies), and honorary president of Timber Growers United Kingdom, he exercised a wide and beneficial influence in land use matters. A naturalist and forester of deep practical knowledge and experience which was abundantly evi-



dent on his own properties at Fassfern and Glenfeshie, he was also a superb photographer of wildlife.

At Batsford Park he created over the years an arboretum of outstanding beauty and merit — a lasting memorial to a dedicated and caring countryman who gave much in every sense and asked for no return.

J.M.G.G.

Jean Hamburger

NOT only was Jean Hamburger (obituary, February 11) internationally famous and the mandarin of French medicine, but he was also a generous supporter of many young doctors who visited the Necker Institute from east and west.

As a young medical student

in 1968, I went on an elective period to Paris on the very eve of the *événements*. I was very warmly received, lent Jean Hamburger's own *garçonnière* in the Latin quarter and encouraged to study and enjoy myself throughout those turbulent and fascinating months. Many of us are in debt for his kindness, support and teaching which was greatly appreciated.

Peter Dorington Ward

ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON

Roberto d'Aubuisson, founder of El Salvador's ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance party and alleged leader of right-wing death squads, died of a heart attack after a long battle with throat cancer in San Salvador on February 20 aged 48. He was born there on August 23, 1943.

A FANATICAL anti-communist with the reputation of being a ruthless killer, Roberto d'Aubuisson had rugged good-looks and practised a swaggering, machismo style of politics that struck fear into the hearts of many Salvadorans while winning the adoration of others. Although the allegations were never proved in court, he was widely believed to be the "Godfather" of the right-wing death-squads that murdered thousands of Salvadorans suspected of harbouring left-wing sympathisers as El Salvador moved towards civil war in the early 1980s. He was publicly accused by Napoleon Duarte, the late, former Salvadoran president, and Robert White, a former United States ambassador to San Salvador, of masterminding the assassination of the Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero, who was shot in the heart as he said mass in 1980. White called d'Aubuisson "a pathological killer" but d'Aubuisson shrugged off the accusations with disdain.

Although his bid for the presidency failed he hand-picked his successful successor, Alfredo Cristiani and

remained a powerful figure in the background.

D'Aubuisson was the descendant of a Frenchman who went to Central America to help build the Panama Canal. His father was a salesman and his mother a civil servant. As he grew up, El Salvador was still firmly in the grip of the *caudillo* *grande*, the 14 families, a tightly knit clan of oligarchs who ran and effectively owned the country. He received a Roman Catholic education at a Jesuit-run school in San Salvador and then joined the National Guard.

He quickly became rabidly right-wing in his political outlook and as a junior officer in the Guard's intelligence department became involved in compiling detailed records of thousands of Salvadorans deemed to hold politically unacceptable opinions: liberal politicians, trade union officials, academics, student organisations and even some colleagues in the military. These files provided the raw material for the death squads which plunged El Salvador into a nightmare of political violence over the ensuing decade. The secrets they contained ranged from suspected connections with the country's emergent guerrilla movements to bank accounts, love affairs and drinking habits. Once a victim had been selected, off-duty troops and policemen did most of the dirty work. But d'Aubuisson gained a reputation as a ruthless torturer of suspected leftists which later led US embassy personnel to nickname him "blowtorch Bob."



By 1979 d'Aubuisson had become chief intelligence officer of the National Guard but became implicated in an attempted coup and when reform-minded officers staged their own coup he was cashiered. Some members of the new junta wanted him tried for treason but he fled to Guatemala. He spent 18 months in exile from where, with the backing of Guatemalan and Argentine paramilitary right-wing movements, he set about creating the Nationalist Republican Alliance party, known by its Spanish acronym Arena.

His belligerent anti-communist stance brought him support from El Salvador's right-wing business sector, wealthy landowners and military hardliners and his lean good-looks and skin-tight

shirts won him an adoring female following. He was a slight, wiry man, only 5ft 7ins tall but — having been wounded twice in unsuccessful assassination attempts — he exuded a tough, virile appeal. He thrived on a reputation of smoking and drinking heavily, playing poker and chasing women. He was also a spellbinding public speaker. A favourite gimmick was to hold up a watermelon and compare it with his rivals, the centrist Christian Democrats, whose campaign colour was green. "Green on the outside," he would say. Then, slicing the melon open with his machete, he would spit contemptuously: "and red on the inside."

When he left his National Guard office, he had reputedly taken with him much of the damaging material he had accumulated on suspected leftists, together with a network of death squad contacts. And after establishing Arena, he capitalised on the right's horror of communism. In regular television appearances he would identify and denounce what he called "subversives", after which many would be killed by the death squads.

Arena won a majority in the National Assembly in 1982 and d'Aubuisson became president of the Assembly. Two years later he campaigned against Napoleon Duarte for the presidency, on an uncompromising platform of defeating the left-wing guerrillas on the battlefield.

The communists were not his only ogre. The US came a close second. The Carter administration had barred him from entry to the US and the Reagan administration, which was backing Duarte's Christian Democrats, was no warmer. He dismissed the significance of US military aid, saying if he was elected he would accept it only if it came without conditions — in effect rejecting US congressional demands for more attention to be paid in Salvador to the question of human rights.

In the 1984 election, however, he lost narrowly to Duarte. Afterwards d'Aubuisson appeared to mellow. He selected Cristiani, a conservative businessman, as Arena's candidate for the 1989 presidential elections and after Cristiani's victory apparently acquiesced when the new president moved away from the rabid anti-communism that had been d'Aubuisson's hallmark, introduced a series of economic reforms and entered into a dialogue with the left-wing rebels. D'Aubuisson was credited with having played a decisive role in restraining the extreme right-wingers of the party and played a positive role in supporting the accord with the rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) that led to a United Nations mediated cease-fire agreement.

His death came three weeks after a cease-fire went into effect following the signing of peace accords by President Cristiani and the rebels. He is survived by his wife, Luz Maria, and four children.

Church news

The Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, Bishop of Manchester, is to retire at the end of November when he will be aged 66.

The Ven Leonard E. Oyofo, Archbishop of Toronto, diocese of Bath and Wells, is to retire as from June 30.

Clergy appointments
The Rev John Acreman, Curate, Iwer to be Rector, Hook Norton with Great Rollright, Swerford and Wigginton (Oxford).
The Rev Anthony S. Adanson, Curate, Benwell Team Ministry, to be Vicar, Tweedmouth (Newcastle).
The Rev Christopher Allen, Head of Pathfinders, Church Pastoral Aid Society, and Honorary Curate, St Stephen, Birmingham; to be Vicar, St Bernard, Hamestead (Birmingham).
The Rev Dennis R. A. Brett, Assistant Curate, Bradford-on-Avon, Holy Trinity; to be Priest-in-charge, Weston Rhyn and Selatryn with Selatryn (Lichfield).
The Rev Peter L. Coley, Assistant Curate, St Catherine, Mile Cross

to be Rector, Stratton St Mary with Stratton St Michael and Wotton (Norwich).
The Rev Jeffrey Daly, previously Priest-in-charge, Stevenage with Milton (Oxford); to be Assistant Chaplain, Sherborne Boys' School (Salisbury).
The Rev Granville A. Fincham, Assistant Priest/Curate, Watford St Michael's (St Albans); to be Team Vicar, West Slough St Michael's, West Slough Team Ministry (Oxford).
The Rev Raymond J. Forbes, Rector, Hamworthy; to be Priest-in-charge, Symondsbury and Chideock (Salisbury).
The Rev Geoffrey V. Gillard, Director of Studies and Course Director of the St Albans Diocese Ministerial Training Scheme to be Principal of the St Albans Diocese Ministerial Training Scheme (St Albans).
The Rev Victor R. Harrod, Rector, Orsett with Bulphar; to be Vicar, Thorpe-le-Soken (Chelmsford).
The Rev Peter W. Hart, Curate, Sketty (Swansea and Brecon); to be Priest-in-charge, Warndon, St Nicholas (Worcester).
The Rev Gordon G. Hodson, Priest-in-charge, Chesham, Ellenhall and Selghord with Cresswell; to be Rector, Chesham.

Ellenhall and Selghord with Cresswell (Lichfield).
The Rev Robin N. Hungerford, Assistant Curate, Swindon Dorton (Bristol); to be Team Vicar, Melbury Team Ministry (Salisbury).
The Rev Ron Jackson, Resident Minister, Hopwas (Lichfield); to be Bishop's Officer for Parish Mission and Development (Bradford).
The Rev Peter Walter R. King, Rector, Hereford St Nicholas, and Diocesan Director of Ordination (Hereford); to be Team Rector, Huntingdon Team Ministry (Ely).
The Rev Graham Kings, Vice-Principal of St Andrews Institute, Kabare (Kinyanga, Church of the Province of Kenya); to be Henry Martyn Lecturer in Missiology in the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges, and Overseas Adviser to the Henry Martyn Trust (Ely), and also to be Canon Emeritus of Kenyatta Pro-Cathedral (Kinyanga, Church of the Province of Kenya).
The Rev Geoffrey Latham, Assistant Curate, St Peter with Christ Church, Southborough (Rochester); to be Assistant Curate, St John the Baptist, Harborne (Birmingham).

The Rev John Lawson, Assistant Curate, All Saints, Wellington with St Catherine's, Eynon (Lichfield); to be Team Vicar, Dewbury Team Parish, with special responsibility for St John's, Dewbury Moor (Wakefield).
The Rev Eric Lewis, Priest (NSM), Oldbury Group, to be Vicar, Northampton St Benedict (Peterborough).
The Rev William Newton, Assistant Curate, Leigh-on-Sea, St Margaret; to be Vicar, Belfus Park (Chelmsford).
The Rev Richard D. Pratt, Vicar, St Mark's, Kingshorpe; to be Vicar, Northampton St Benedict (Peterborough).

The Rev Alfred F. Riddle, Rector, Guernsey St Pierre des Bois and St Philippe de Torval (Winchester); to be Vicar, Blakesley with Adstone and Maidford and Farthingstone (Peterborough).

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: George Washington, first president of the USA 1789-97, Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1732; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, Gdansk, 1788; Robert Baden-Powell, Baron Baden-Powell, general, founder of the Boy Scout movement, London, 1857; Heinrich Heine, physician, Hamburg, 1857; Eric Gill, sculptor and typographer, Brighton, 1882; Edna St Vincent Millay, poet, Rockland, Maine, 1902.
DEATHS: David Bruce, David I, King of Scotland, reigned 1329-71, Edinburgh, 1371; Amerigo Vesputi, merchant and adventurer, Seville, 1512; James Barry, painter, London, 1806; Sir Charles Lyell, geologist, London, 1875; Jean Baptiste Corot, painter, Paris, 1875; Hugo Wolf, lieder composer, Vienna, 1903; Elizabeth Bowen, novelist, London, 1973; Oskar Kokoschka, painter, 1980; Andy Warhol, painter, 1987.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Samuel Pepys, London, 1633; George Frederick Handel, composer, Halle, Germany, 1685; George Watts, painter, London, 1817.
DEATHS: Johann Gutenberg, inventor of printing, Mainz, 1468; Sir Joshua Reynolds, first president of the Royal Academy 1768-92, London, 1792; John Keats, poet, Rome, 1821; John Quincy Adams, 6th president of the USA 1825-29, Quincy, Massachusetts, 1848; Joanna Baillie, poet and dramatist, London, 1851; William Butterfield, architect of the Gothic revival, London, 1900; Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th president of the USA 1913-21, Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Dame Nellie Melba, soprano, Sydney, NSW, 1931; Sir Edward Elgar, Master of the King's Musick 1924-34, Worcester, 1934; Leo Hendrick Baekeland, inventor of Bakelite, Season, New York, 1944; Paul Claudel, poet and dramatist, Paris, 1955; Stan Laurel (Arthur Stanley Jefferson), actor, Sanna Monica, California, 1965; L. S. Lowry, painter, Glossop, Derbyshire, 1976; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1983.

The Cato Street conspiracy was uncovered, 1820. The Russian February Revolution, ending March 1 (old style date) 1917.

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● ACCOUNTANCY RESULTS 29-31
● SPORT 31-36

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

WEEKEND
MONEY

Profile

Paul Orchard-Lisle, senior partner at Healey & Baker, has a lifestyle straight from the Thirties. His three homes include a Mayfair town house, a country residence in Bedfordshire and a place in the south of France. He has never married and mixes golf and 11-hour work sessions throughout the week. Page 19



Under scrutiny

Broker-managed funds producing very high returns are under investigation by the trade department and the financial intermediaries managers and brokers regulatory association. Page 23

Trust fears

If Labour wins the next election and its tax plans hit disposable income, investors could find their shares in investment trust companies falling, says a County NatWest review. Page 23



Income squeezed

Susan Gillingham, fund manager of Martin Currie's income and growth trust, frowns on the practice of buying high-yielding shares to boost the performance of income funds shortly before the ex-dividend date and then selling them after receiving the dividend. But fund managers of income trusts are facing the prospect of having to cut payouts to investors because the companies in which they invest are themselves cutting their dividends. Page 22



Bank order

From next month banks will have to tell their customers how long it will take to clear cheques and how many days they will have to wait before interest is credited to their accounts. Page 25

Debit habit

Banks are running a television advertising campaign to try to encourage people to pay their regular bills by direct debit instead of cheques or standing orders. Page 25



Pensioners wait

Any proposals for tightening safeguards on pension schemes to prevent another Maxwell-style plundering of assets are some way off, despite a flurry of new ideas out this week. Page 21

Profit advance at expense of 8,500 jobs and 150 branch closures

Lloyds Bank rises despite record bad debt

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS Bank cheered the City by announcing a 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £645 million despite record bad debt provisions of £918 million. The rise was achieved at the cost of 8,500 lost jobs and 150 branch closures during the year, which helped to keep costs level. The profits also allowed Lloyds to raise its final dividend 10 per cent to 11.3p, to make 16.7p for the year.

Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, described the figures as "reasonably robust" but warned shareholders that bad debts would remain at a high level even after the economic recovery begins.

Brian Pitman, the chief executive, said the job cuts would continue until 1994 and expected employee numbers to fall by up to 3,000 this year. He said the actual reduction would depend on the level of the bank's pay settlement, and that every additional 1 per cent on the settlement would cost a further 650 jobs.

He added: "We are assuming low economic growth and sluggish income growth so there will be a need to continue cuts with the bank." The bank's costs fell by £1 million to £2.46 billion last year.

Of the 8,500 job losses,

7,000 came from the British bank. Lloyds reduced head office staff by 20 per cent and branch staff by a tenth, while making redundancy and early retirement payments of £84 million. The cuts are being made possible by the introduction of computer processing, which is reducing the bank's volume of paperwork dramatically.

Mr Pitman warned customers that they should also expect savings rates to continue falling. "There is not the demand for money that there was and we do not have to bid for deposits in the way we did two years ago." The rise in retail deposits was a principal factor in the 4 per cent increase in Lloyds' income to £3.98 billion.

He also said that customers would have to learn to pay for the services they use and that the bank's practice of cross-subsidising their services was over. "We have moved into a new world. It is an irritation for customers and we certainly think about how we charge them, but people are beginning to realise that like others, we have to charge for our services," he added.

Lloyds' bad debts were higher than expected and included an estimated £75 million set aside to cover its exposure to the Maxwell companies. Sir Jeremy said: "We

are seeing a secondary swathe of recession, which must be expected to work its way down from the middle corporate to personal level. We are logging along through a long recession."

Lloyds' corporate banking division was the worst hit by the recession and suffered a loss of £11 million, down from £8 million in 1990. Bad debt provisions to large companies rose from £175 million to £226 million.

The retail bank, which handles personal and small business customers, saw profits fall by £45 million to £123 million, with a rise of £63 million in bad debt provisions to £550 million. The bulk of the profits, however, came once more from Lloyds Abbey Life, the bank's 60 per cent owned life assurance subsidiary. It reported a slightly reduced profit of £305 million earlier in the week.

The slump in corporate finance work in the City saw profits at Lloyds Merchant Bank plunge 90 per cent to £1 million. In 1989, Lloyds was almost brought to its knees by bad debt provisions against its Third World debts, which pushed the bank to a record loss of £715 million. However, the rise in the value of Argentinian and Brazilian debt has allowed the bank to



Slogging through recession: Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, reporting "reasonably robust" results yesterday

record a £62 million profit from its portfolio, compared to a £27 million profit in 1990. Lloyds has decided to retain most of its debt until the countries come to a settlement with their banks. The portfolio stands at £3.72 billion, down 4 per cent.

Analysts applauded the results. Rob Barrett, an analyst at Goldman Sachs, said: "Brian Pitman has done it again by controlling costs. But you cannot give out any bonuses for the bank's bad debts." Analysts are forecasting profits of £750 million for this year, providing bad debt provisions start to fall.

In his statement, Mr Pitman said 1992 would be a year of "volatility and uncertainty". Due to its strong performance, however, Lloyds is one of the few banks

in Europe and America with capital ratios strong enough to take on a substantial acquisition. "Our aim is to make ourselves as strong as possible to withstand any sudden unexpected blows and be able to take advantage of opportunities whenever they occur," said Mr Pitman.

Lloyds is the first of the high street banks to report. Figures from Barclays, National Westminster and Midland are due next week. Bad debt provisions are expected to push Midland into a heavy loss, while even NatWest is forecast to be close to break even. Profits from Barclays, Britain's largest bank, may be as little as £600 million.

SIB chief leads Lloyd's enquiry

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

LLOYD'S of London has asked Sir David Walker, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, to lead an enquiry after complaints from outside names on loss-making syndicates.

The complaints allege that excess of loss business was reinsured repeatedly around the market in a so-called "LMX spiral". This is alleged to have generated brokerage and fees for Lloyd's professionals at the expense of names, who therefore suffered losses disproportionate to underlying claims on policies.

Sir David will also oversee the six review committees appointed under Lloyd's rules to report on syndicates with the biggest losses for the 1988 and 1989 underwriting years. The losses in these syndicates largely flow from excess of loss business and have been at the centre of the allegations.

The appointment of Sir David, who is an ex officio member of the Lloyd's council by virtue of his SIB chairmanship but is seen as independent, is a response by Lloyd's to charges that market professionals are covering up the true source of the huge losses in some syndicates. Names have mounted various legal actions aimed at retrieving losses or avoiding payment under the Lloyd's rules of unlimited liability.

The reports of the review

Nestlé is winner in battle for Perrier

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

THE fight for control of Perrier, the French mineral water company, appears to have drawn to an early close, with Nestlé, the world's largest food group, emerging as the winner last night.

The unexpected turn of events came with a Frb.1 billion bid by BSN, the French food group, for Exor, Perrier's main shareholder. The bid is thought to be part of a negotiated settlement to resolve the conflict between Nestlé and Banque Indosuez on the one side, and Italy's Agnelli family on the other.

The most likely scenario is that Nestlé/Indosuez will take majority control of Perrier, while BSN, buys Exor, subject to a bid from the Agnelli, who hold a large stake.

BSN will also buy the Volvic mineral water brand from Perrier.

The French media have speculated that BSN might resell its stake in Exor back to the Agnelli family, which could then emerge as a minority shareholder in Perrier.

The complicated bid solution is the consequence of an intractable situation, marked by bids, counterbids, law suits and regulatory uncertainty. In January, the Agnelli launched a bid for Exor, which with others controls just under half of Perrier's shares. Nestlé then announced a Fr13.3 billion bid for Perrier, but the large holding by Exor and its allies prevented a straight-fought battle.

Under a ruling by the Conseil des Bourses de Valeurs (CBV), the French stock market regulator, Exor was forced to launch a bid for Perrier, but Exor is contesting the decision in the French courts.

Labour would curb coal imports

By MARTIN WALLER



Dobson: unrepentant

FRANK Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, has stuck to his guns and insisted that a Labour government would require the two electricity generators, National Power and PowerGen, to favour British Coal when ordering fuel for power stations.

He has also put a question mark over the future of export terminals being built to handle imported coal. He says Labour would curb imports and might not allow the terminals to be used.

Mr Dobson shrugged off claims by Sir Graham Day, PowerGen chairman, that Labour's plans to become involved in running the generators, perhaps by appointing

directors charged with carrying out the party's policies, would be unlawful. Sir Graham maintains that any attempt by directors to favour indigenous coal supplies would be illegal because under the Companies Act they must act in the best interests of shareholders.

Mr Dobson argues that taking British coal would be in the generators' long-term interests because they would not depend on erratic supplies of foreign fuels. The companies would be required, he says, to emphasise fuel self-sufficiency, environmental factors and energy saving. Both generators are close to signing a £150 million contract to build a

terminal at Immingham, Humberside, to handle imported coal.

The generators believe lessening reliance on British coal increases security of supply because of the potential for disruption demonstrated by miners in the past.

Reminders have been sent to about 25,000 shareholders in National Power and PowerGen who have not paid second instalments for their shares. If they do not pay, they could lose their shares. Anyone who has not paid the instalment and does not receive a reminder should contact the National Power helpline on 021-433 4466 or the PowerGen helpline on 0272 465511.

Sweet welcome for this Viking invasion

By MARTIN BARROW

AFTER more than a century of independence, Taveners, the family-run Liverpool confectioner that supplies two thirds of Britain's marshmallows, has succumbed to one of Europe's biggest makers of chocolates and sweets. Bill Taveners, the chairman, whose family has been at the helm for three generations, yesterday announced an agreed bid from Toms Fabrikker, a Danish confectioner.

Toms' cash offer of 165p a share values Taveners, which created chocolate eclairs sweets in the Thirties, at £4.8 million. Acceptances have been received from the Taveners family, which speaks for 23.9 per cent, and from Oy Karl Fazer, a Finnish confectioner that speaks for 29.9 per cent and had been expected to make an offer for the rest of the company as the concentration of Europe's confectionery industry into a small number of players gathered pace.

Fazer bought in Scandinavia instead and indicated that it wanted to sell its Taveners stake. The deal was done in truly European fashion, with



Fazer introducing Mr Taveners to several possible buyers. Toms has agreed to allow Taveners to be run as an independent limited company, maintaining all production, sales and administrative operations in Liverpool, and with Mr Taveners in the role of chairman and managing director.

Despite losing family control, Mr Taveners, aged 59, addressed as "Mr Bill" by staff, was in buoyant mood. He believes Fazer's co-operation has

helped Taveners secure the best of both worlds, benefitting from the resources of a large parent, while securing employment for the 250 employees. Mr Taveners, whose cousin John, aged 65, is export manager, said: "There is no next generation of Taveners. It was much more important for us to look after the interests of our employees."

A takeover by a British company would probably have condemned

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Germany wants to kickstart Gatt talks

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY, current chairman of the Group of Seven industrial nations, is stepping up the pressure on other governments to rescue the stalled world trade talks from collapse, according to Jürgen Möllemann, the German economics minister.

As the G7 economy most exposed to fluctuations in international trade, Germany fears that failure of the Uruguay round talks on free trade would damage the fragile global economy, as well as Germany, which has already suffered three consecutive quarters of contraction.

Herr Möllemann said Chancellor Helmut Kohl planned to call the American and French presidents in the next few days to try to jumpstart the trade round, which has negotiated under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) since 1986.

Herr Möllemann urged G7 leaders to fulfil their pledge from last summer to make the Uruguay round the

top priority. He said the talks in Geneva, were "heading for collapse", unless decisive political action is taken.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, speaking in London, said the completion of the Gatt round was the "most pressing issue" for the European Community at present, as success would bring a non-inflationary boost to the world economy.

Although he believed agreement was still possible by the Easter deadline set by Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt director general, Mr Lilley said success was "by no means certain".

He put the odds at 60:40 in favour of a deal. Senior officials of the G7, due to meet in Frankfurt, next Friday, to prepare the ground for the July economic summit in Munich, are also expected to discuss the Gatt talks.

Mr Lilley told the Institute of Directors that it would be up to Britain, as Community president from mid-year, to pick up the pieces in an environment of increasing protectionism if the talks failed. Any delay beyond the Easter deadline not only opened up the "very gruesome" prospect of failure, but also of breakdown in existing rules for multilateral trade.

He predicted that an agreement would be close to the draft accord put forward in December by Mr Dunkel, which has been rejected by Brussels as too favourable to America in the key area of agricultural subsidies.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, has called on President Bush to make concessions to break the deadlock at the world trade talks. After talks with François Mitterrand, the French president, Mr Delors said: "We have made an effort and we expect an effort by President Bush himself, since his negotiators won't budge."

Japan, which earlier maintained a low profile on the Gatt round, this week openly indicated serious discontent with proposals for opening up the Japanese rice market.

Lending surges in Germany

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

A SURGE in bank lending to firms and individuals led to an annualised rise of 9 per cent in German broad money last month, overshooting the Bundesbank's target range by about 100 per cent.

The rise in M3, which includes cash, sight deposits, saving accounts and time deposits for less than four years, compares with the Bundesbank's 1992 target range of between 3.5 and 5.5 per cent. The surge is the result of continued strength in bank lending to the private sector, which over the last six months has risen an annualised 12 per cent. In money terms, this amounted to a rise of DM4.6 billion last month, compared with a rise of DM300 million in January last year.

The Bundesbank, which normally places strong emphasis on the money supply data in determining interest rates, has been unusually relaxed about the figures, which, it says, were not representative as they reflected special seasonal developments.

This week, Othmar Issing, a member of the Bundesbank's central council, indicated that the data would be bad, but stressed that a single series of monthly data should not be overvalued. Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, also broke a taboo by announcing that interest rates would remain at the same level in the foreseeable future. His comments were designed to prevent speculators from expecting yet another rise in German interest rates after the release of the money supply data.

However, despite the bank attaching little significance to the January data, the Bundesbank remains staunchly monetarist in outlook. Another month or two of above-target increases in M3 could delay cuts in interest rates.

Mystery of the missing microfiches

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STAFF at Barclays are scouring their drawers for forgotten secrets after a batch of confidential microfiches, containing details of hundreds of customer transactions, turned up in a second-hand desk in Holloway, north London.

Barclays has offered a £250 reward for the return of the microfiches, but they have still not been recovered. Officials from the office of Sir John Quinton, the chairman, are investigating the incident to discover how the records went astray.

The microfiches were lost two years ago when the bank's international services branch, near Euston Station, London, was refurbished. Seventy desks were sold to second-hand traders. The one containing the microfiches found its way to Holloway, where its new owner discovered one of the drawers was jammed.

On prising it open, he found 29 sheets of microfiches, containing hundreds of pages of customers' transaction records. In recent years, high

street banks have tried to reduce their mountains of paperwork by transferring records to microfiche or computer. These are the banks' master files and many are irreplaceable.

The man who had bought the desk reported the find to his local Barclays branch, which then contacted the international services department. The bank ordered a check on thousands of files to discover where the missing records came from.

It believes they detail fixed deposits of personal and smaller company accounts in both dollars and sterling, and interest paid on them dating back to around 1987.

A bank spokesman denied the loss was a breach of security. Barclays sent the man a stamped and addressed envelope and offered him £250 for his trouble. It has still not recovered them, however, although the finder claims he has sent them back. Who knows where they could turn up next?



Puzzled: Sir John Quinton, Barclays chairman

BCCI compensation plan is agreed by liquidator

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE liquidator of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International has approved a long-awaited compensation plan with the government of Abu Dhabi.

The deal will allow the bank's depositors worldwide to recover up to 40 per cent of their funds, or \$4 billion.

The agreement is the culmination of six months of negotiation between Brian Smouha, the Touche Ross accountant who is liquidating the bank, and Ghani al-Mazrui, the chief adviser from the Abu Dhabi government, and breaks new ground in international insolvency law.

Mr Smouha has to win approval from courts in Luxembourg, Britain and the Cayman Islands and from about 70 per cent of depositors before the compensation plan can take effect.

BCCI was closed by international bank regulators last July, after the discovery of a \$6 billion fraud.

Under the terms of the deal, the Abu Dhabi government is injecting up to \$2.2 billion into a pool that will compensate all BCCI depositors equally. Touche estimates that 250,000 people in 35 countries will benefit.

The Abu Dhabi government is also writing off assets worth \$2 billion that were managed by the International Credit and Investment Company, BCCI's sister company, and were misappropriated by BCCI's management.

In return for this, Touche is cancelling \$3.06 billion of promissory notes and other financial guarantees given to the bank by the Abu Dhabi government as part of its abortive restructuring plan last year.

Before BCCI's closure, these were the bank's most valuable assets, but Mr Smouha decided last summer that any attempt to try and claim on these notes would end in a lengthy international legal battle and the outcome would be uncertain.

In the past, Touche has said that unless the deal goes through, depositors could receive nothing from the bank, since its remaining assets could be used up in prolonged legal wrangling between different jurisdictions.

Touche's staff have spent 281,000 hours working on the liquidation of BCCI since last July at an average rate of £127 an hour. Touche has charged £45 million, or almost £1.5 million a week, for its work. "BCCI just has a few more noughts than many of the liquidations around at the moment, and it is in 20 or 30 as many countries," Mr Smouha said.

The agreement will be put before the various courts next month and in April. If it is approved, depositors have until September 30 to register their claims. Touche needs acceptances from creditors owed at least \$7 billion to put the scheme into effect, and the deadline will be extended until the end of November, if the accountants do not receive the necessary approval.

If successful, depositors should receive the first payment of 10p in the pound early next year. In Britain, many small BCCI depositors have already received compensation from the Bank of England's deposit protection scheme.

Inspectors named in Wace enquiry

THE government has appointed two inspectors to investigate Wace Group, the pre-press services company at the centre of allegations over insider trading.

Anthony Robertshaw and Christopher Mayhew, the inspectors, will concentrate on Wace UK Holdings, a subsidiary formerly called Parkway Group that was the subject of an agreed bid by Wace in August 1990. The inspectors have been asked to examine share dealings in Parkway before the bid.

Wace started on a downward spiral this year when it was linked to talk that police authorities, including the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Irish Garda, were looking at a suspected money-laundering operation run by the IRA using a quoted British company.

Wace denied the rumours and a subsequent internal enquiry found no evidence of a link between any of the company's directors, past or present, and the IRA or any other organisation.

John Clegg, the Wace chairman responsible for the company's explosive growth over the past decade, had earlier resigned, saying his departure served the best interests of the company after the IRA rumours.

But the internal enquiry did turn up evidence of potentially unlawful dealings in Parkway shares before the acquisition. This was sent to the trade department, which is responsible for investigating alleged insider trading.

Wace said at that time that neither the company nor any members of the existing board was a party to those share dealings. Wace yesterday welcomed the trade department investigation.

"The company has nothing to fear from its findings. Our only wish is that the position should be speedily resolved," said Francis ten Bos, the chairman.

Mr Clegg is in Chicago. His solicitor, Simon Sackman at Norton Rose, said his client had informed the company's stockbroker before the Parkway bid that three distant cousins held between them a 75,000 shareholding in Parkway. But Mr Sackman said Mr Clegg had indicated to him that he had no knowledge of any further holdings by family members.

Brooke Tool passes final dividend

SHARES in Brooke Tool Engineering almost halved after a loss forced the company to pass payment of a final dividend. The managing director is to leave. In the 12 months to end-September, Brooke, which makes cutting tools, incurred losses of £1.3 million before tax, compared with pre-tax profits of £1.3 million in the previous financial year. Turnover was £25.34 million (£28.3 million), but operating profits collapsed to £80,000 (£2.39 million).

A 2.5p loss per share, against earnings of 2.2p last time, has discouraged the payment of a final dividend, leaving 0.25p (1.225p) a share. The shares fell from 13½p to 7½p. Idris Jones has resigned as managing director and intends to leave the board. He will be succeeded by John Dasher as chief executive. Pre-tax losses were struck after an exceptional charge of £408,000 relating to redundancy and relocation costs. There was also an extraordinary charge of £288,000, representing losses on disposals and closures.

Dunton curbs losses

DUNTON Group, the brickmaker that was the subject of a reverse takeover from a private property group last March, has reported a much reduced pre-tax loss for the six months to end-November of £252,000 (£2.71 million loss). There is again no dividend. The group managed operating profits of £499,000 against a £2.21 million loss last time, but these were more than swallowed up by interest payments. Clive Travers, chairman, said Dunton was unlikely to see an early return to overall profits because of the recession.

Holmes licensing deal

HOLMES Protection, a New York security company with a London listing, has signed a licensing agreement with Sears Roebuck, the American retailing chain. The agreement licenses Holmes to install residential alarm systems through Sears in New York and Long Island, an area that includes 3.7 million households. The agreement is part of a strategy devised by a new board headed by Sir Ian MacGregor. Eric Kohn, chief executive, is negotiating a \$37 million share placing that would underpin a refinancing agreement.

CE Heath share offer

CE HEATH, the City insurance company, is considering proposals to raise about Aus\$105 million (£45 million) for its Australian underwriting operations through a public offer of shares in its CE Heath International Holdings subsidiary. Heath's holding would be diluted from 90 per cent to about 45 per cent as a result. The company said the proceeds would be used to repay the subsidiary's debt and to provide capital for expansion. Ord Minnett Securities, a stockbroker, has been appointed as manager and underwriter.

Frank Usher bullish

FRANK Usher, the women's evening wear designer, is bullish about second-half profits. The company said orders for its spring and summer collections heralded a return to profit levels enjoyed before last year's downturn in consumer spending. In the six months to end-November pre-tax profits recovered from £505,000 to £585,000, lifting earnings from 4.7p to 5.7p. The interim dividend is restored to 2p (1.5p). Turnover was cut from £8.19 million to £7.61 million. Operating profits rose from £819,000 to £854,000.

E&OP £2.3m in red

EXCEPTIONAL provisions against declining property values have taken a heavy toll at English & Overseas Properties, the former property subsidiary of Pentos. E&OP made a pre-tax loss of £2.32 million last year, compared with losses of £134,000 in 1990, after an exceptional charge of £2.48 million. The loss per share was 14.24p, against a 5.51p deficit last time. The company is drawing on reserves to maintain the final dividend at 0.5p. However, the total dividend is still down from 2.5p to 1p.

Time chief resigns

ONE of America's most highly paid executives stands to gain at least \$30 million in golden handshakes after his surprise resignation as co-chief executive of Time Warner, the world's largest entertainment group. Nicholas J. Nicholas resigned after losing a power struggle to Gerald Levin, the lawyer who takes his job. Mr Nicholas is on a 13-year contract and received a salary of \$2.4 million last year. He disagreed with Steven Ross, chairman and co-chief executive, over the group's direction.

Saga Petroleum falls

SAGA Petroleum, Norway's biggest private oil company, reported record sales of North Sea oil in 1991, but its overall profits fell as Saga wrote down the value of its shares in Elkem, a Norwegian metals maker. Saga's group profit, before extraordinary items and other adjustments, fell to 777 million kr (£69 million) from 1.11 billion kr in 1990. Crude oil sales rose to 20.5 million barrels from 17 million in 1990. Saga said it was writing down the value of its 12.4 per cent stake in Elkem by 335 million kr.

Daily News losses

THE late Robert Maxwell's New York Daily News is losing money at twice the rate estimated by analysts. Figures filed with the bankruptcy court show it lost \$2.45 million in January, giving annualised losses of almost \$30 million. Two Americans and one Canadian have expressed interest in buying the paper: Peter Kalikow, under bankruptcy protection himself and owner of the rival New York Post, Mortimer Zuckerman, owner of US News & World Report and Conrad Black, owner of The Daily Telegraph.

The empty airline seat that could lead to the job centre

THREE weeks before Christmas, Jim Bowman asked his secretary to cancel his planned flight on UA 1545 from Hartford, Connecticut, to Washington DC. The United Airlines Boeing 737 took off on time at 0700 with his regular aisle seat, 5C, empty.

In three weeks' time, Derek Ayres expects to be signing on at his job centre in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

The two, apparently unconnected events, are, in fact, inextricably linked. Jim Bowman works for Pratt & Whitney, the American aero-engine manufacturer, and by the end of last year it was obvious that it, like everyone else in the aerospace industry, would have to make massive cuts in expenditure if it was to avoid heavy losses.

Continuing defence spending had enabled it to deliver 700 engines to the American military machine in 1984. As a result of the peace dividend, with the defence department cutting back aircraft orders, Pratt & Whitney expects next year to deliver just 50.

Commercial aircraft engine sales have also dropped sharply, and Mr

Bowman's bosses have ordered savings of at least \$1 billion this year. Consequently, flights to Washington to meet even the most prestigious contacts had to be jettisoned.

Within a month, Pratt announced a further 2,400 job losses from its workforce, which had already been trimmed by 3,000 in 1991, and predicted that a further 2,500 would have to go within the next five years. Mr Bowman was, therefore, not alone in cancelling his flight: even in his own company, hundreds of executives will be lucky to keep their jobs, far less reserve seats on a plane.

Over in Dallas, meanwhile, executives of American Airlines, the world's biggest and most powerful airline, were doing some calculations. What they discovered frightened even hardened airline chiefs used to riding the roller-coaster of aviation economics. If one less passenger flew on each of American's flights, its revenue would fall by \$114 million.

The calculation is simple. Each passenger carried on the airline's 854,461

Harvey Elliott explains how cutbacks in the aircraft industry in America could force British contractors to lay off staff

departures last year paid, on average, \$134 for a ticket. Remove one passenger per flight and, with costs fixed, the missing \$114 million carried through directly to the bottom line. By the end of the year, American had run up a loss of \$240 million.

United, American's nearest rival, was in the same boat. It too was finding that recession-hit business passengers were cancelling planned flights at an alarming rate and by the year end it had run up a loss of \$332 million.

Both airlines, together dominating the vast American market, had little option but to slow down the rate they were buying new aircraft. United announced that it was delaying taking delivery of 60 Boeing 757s, 44 Boeing 737s and six 777s. American said it too

was deferring options on 133 aircraft of various types planned for delivery over the next five years.

United will still take delivery of 66 new jets this year. By 1995, however, this will have fallen to just 11, saving the airline some \$6.7 billion in capital expenditure.

All over the world, as the recession continues to bite, airlines are sending often brand new aircraft into the Mojave desert rather than put them into loss-making service.

Faced with such cutbacks, Boeing decided it had to act and announced a cut in the production rate of the 737 from 21 a month to 14. Letters were sent to more than 1,700 contractors around the globe — including Smiths Industries in Britain, whose Chel-

ham factory makes instruments, mainly for the 737.

Within days, it had run the implications through the computer and calculated that, with the drop in the number of spares that would be needed as airlines cut back, and the inter-linked fall in defence contracts, it was going to have to shed 195 jobs.

Smiths has a month in which to negotiate a package with the engineering union, whose works convenor is Derek Ayres, a machinist, aged 52.

He said: "Whenever I go down to the pub, I meet people, aged over 50, who have been on the dole for well over a year. There is nothing for them in Cheltenham because they are skilled men and aerospace companies, like Dowty, are also cutting back, often even more heavily than we are. It is more than likely that I will be in the next batch to go and it is frightening."

Boeing executives are trying still to put on a brave face, even though they this week announced that an additional 8,200 jobs would go at their plants throughout America. The vast major-

ity, they said, were in defence-related work. The 737 was still breaking all delivery records, despite the cut back, and Boeing was actually increasing the production rate of the 757. Between now and the year 2005 some 9,000 new aircraft, worth more than £600 billion, would be needed by airlines and passenger growth would average 5 per cent a year at least.

Smiths, the airlines, and analysts of all kinds are, to say the least, sceptical about the predictions. How can an industry that will lose about \$3 billion in 1991, possibly find the cash to buy all these new aircraft?

Will the world's economy really recover sufficiently to put even one more passenger back onto each flight? Or will the 3 per cent drop in passenger numbers, which reduced the total number of people flying by about 20 million over 1990 and 1991, be repeated?

Jim Bowman — and millions like him — are still not booking their flights. And Derek Ayres, and millions like him, too, are staring unemployment in the face. The vicious circle goes on.

BUSINESS PROFILE: Paul Orchard-Lisle

Living Thirties-style in the Nineties

Carol Leonard finds a man with a life-style like a P.G. Wodehouse novel but with a lust for hard work

Paul Orchard-Lisle, the senior partner of Healey & Baker, arguably the second largest firm of chartered surveyors in the world — after Jones Lang Wootton — belongs to a bygone age. His Bertie Wooster life-style, so commonplace within certain strata of British society in the Thirties, is all but unheard of in the Nineties. His friends marvel at the minutiae of his daily existence. He owns three homes, a spectacular town house in Mayfair, a country residence in Bedfordshire and a holiday home in the South of France, plus a four-week time share in Cape Town, where he goes every January to play golf. He employs a housekeeper in London, enters regularly, but one facet of conventional life is missing. He has no wife. He is the governor of three schools — Marlborough (his own), West Buckland (his father's) and Harrow — but he has no children.

Paul Orchard-Lisle is 53 years old but he has never married. "It could yet happen," he says. "I've come close to it a couple of times. Once I walked, once she walked. Yes, different people. She said one evening a week was not adequate. I think I now lead too selfish a life. Also the thought of divorce and failure appals me. That's probably one of my hang ups. We've had several divorces in the partnership and that has definitely influenced me."

Orchard-Lisle, whose father and uncle were senior partners of the firm before him, was an only child. If he had had siblings he would, he believes, be different. "I tend to be allowed to do what I like, a lot, and I don't have to think about other people very much. I suspect having brothers and sisters around might have made me look at life differently. Probably in my early days I would have been more outgoing than I was. I was a very quiet, introverted individual."

He comes across as big and bluff. Six feet two inches tall, heavily built, a rugby number eight, with thick

grey hair, bushy grey eye brows, and an open, direct, boyish manner. He laughs, sometimes to mask embarrassment, sometimes at himself, and if he were to swear you would somehow expect him to sound more like a character from *Boy's Own* or the *Dandy* than a successful businessman in the aggressive property world at the tail end of the twentieth century. He has lots of friends, will regularly take an afternoon off to play golf, has a handicap of seven, will always stay for a drink afterwards, but if you ask him to name his best friend, he says simply, "Me. I'm quite happy with my own company. I don't have a best friend. I had one at school but I grew out of it." His self-confessed selfish existence begins at 5am when he starts dictating letters, in his study at home, for one of his two secretaries to type. At 7.45am his chauffeur arrives to drive him the few hundred yards to work, from Mount Row to Hanover Square. A fit man, he presumably enjoys the ritual of having a car. His stint in the office usually ends 11 hours later. He spends one morning a weekend on Healey & Baker work, but insists he counters this gruelling schedule by taking his full six weeks holiday a year. "It also means I've got no inhibition at all if someone rings up and says, 'Come on, we're off for golf this afternoon.' I should think one afternoon a week I'm away doing something not easily pliable down as this firm's business. I don't understand 9-5, Monday to Friday, the whole week is for living."

His other outside interests, the three schools aside, range from Reading University and Nottingham Polytechnic, where he sits on their councils, to his local church where he is a trustee, and to the army where he reached the rank of brigadier in the territorial army, the highest rank attainable. He is now an honorary colonel and was an aide-de-camp to the Queen. He was also the youngest-ever president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. And he is

ably enjoys the ritual of having a car. His stint in the office usually ends 11 hours later. He spends one morning a weekend on Healey & Baker work, but insists he counters this gruelling schedule by taking his full six weeks holiday a year. "It also means I've got no inhibition at all if someone rings up and says, 'Come on, we're off for golf this afternoon.' I should think one afternoon a week I'm away doing something not easily pliable down as this firm's business. I don't understand 9-5, Monday to Friday, the whole week is for living."



Rare moment at rest: Paul Orchard-Lisle's working week stretches through the weekend

president of Porters Park, his golf club, in Radlett, Hertfordshire. Everything he turns to, he ends up running. "Yes that does seem to happen," he says. "I'm not a very good committee member. Having to sit through three hours of discussion to make ten minutes of decisions is not on. Therefore I tend to end up as chairman and I'm renowned for short meetings."

Orchard-Lisle's obvious disregard for consensus management extends to the manner in

which he governs his own firm. He talks about it in personal terms, saying "me" and "I" when he means Healey & Baker. He does own a larger slice of the partnership than the other partners, but it is still less than 10 per cent. Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Slough Estates, where Orchard-Lisle is a non-executive director — Mobbs, in turn, is a consultant to Healey & Baker — and a near contemporary of his at Marlborough, says, "Unlike some other partnerships

which have become more democratic recently, Paul still runs Healey & Baker in a fairly autocratic fashion. But, there again, a lot of its business is done on his reputation. He is extremely astute and he has an enormous store of knowledge, not just about the techniques of valuation, but good judgment about property in general. He can be slightly austere and remote, but he is also very direct and I think some partners have felt the sharpness of his tongue. He

can have quite a temper, is not a good loser, but is also a natural leader. He has a lot of personal style and that, with his enormous fount of knowledge, generates respect. Having respect makes leadership much easier."

Orchard-Lisle agrees he likes to lead. "I quite enjoy it but I don't like sheep. I don't think there is a single person in my immediate team at Healey & Baker that you could regard as a sheep. I work better with graduates and professionals than support staff. I like people who wish to succeed, who are exciting, interesting, amusing, and who aren't frightened of me. It was once written somewhere that some of the partners here are afraid to talk to me. I don't understand it. I'm horrified by people who say they are frightened of talking to me. Perhaps it is because of my position."

He does not appear frightening or difficult to talk to. On the contrary he has an easy charm, his face lights up at the prospect of anything that might be fun, and he can deftly handle any subject. "I find him enchanting and so does my wife," says Victor Benjamin, deputy chairman of Tesco. "He has a certain aura, a certain style. I have been to Ascot with him, he is very good company but is also a true professional."

Any fear may well stem in part from his position, in part from his direct manner, from his commitment to the firm and from his legendary temper. "There will be a slow kind of building and I will go pretty silent for a bit, then suddenly there will be an outburst," he says. "There will be a lot of noise. Someone might be invited to go away and consider whether they wish to work for us any longer. Normally it is caused by stupidity, or a failure to do what someone said they would do. Or by someone being obstructive, that really gets up my nose. One or two administrators catch it now and again."

He has had experience of being frightened by another human being. He vividly recalls being scared of his father, although it is, he says, not something the two ever discussed. He was born in 1938, in a flat in Ealing — "My father inherited nothing" — and his father served in the Royal Marines throughout the war. He was six before he met him properly.

"He used to frighten me to hell because I didn't know this strange man in uniform who suddenly appeared. I hadn't had a man in the house before. I had a nanny and my mother and assumed that was how one always lived."

Although home was then Hayling Island, followed by Hertfordshire, the war also meant that the young Orchard-Lisle was despatched to weekly boarding school at the age of four and prep school at eight. "It was only really when I left the army, after national service, and went to university that I spent any time with my father. We'd only met occasionally before that. But we are good friends now. He is very extrovert, he enjoys parties, song and laughter, but he also has a very strict moral code. He would be horrified if there were any wisp of impropriety in the firm, he's pretty outspoken against the gay liberation people and he believes in benevolent conservatism, as I do actually."

His father Mervyn, 80 this year, lives in the South of France. His mother, Phyllis, died 20 years ago. "Yes my parents have influenced me," he says. "I suppose they had a good marriage. I don't really know, we have never talked about it, but they operated pretty independently."

They were not actually draped around each other all day. "I ask him if he ever gets lonely, if he thinks he might marry one day. 'At the moment I couldn't accommodate a marriage, or at least I'm not prepared to. It's an awful approach to marriage I suspect, but I'm beginning to worry about the long winter nights, once the pace has slowed down. I'm beginning to worry about the loneliness, but I don't want to marry for that reason alone. I'll just have to get better at television.' If he did marry, would it be someone younger? His reply is swift, negative and revealing. 'I find myself in a mess with girls who are purely decorative, they've got to have something in their heads for me to feel at ease. She would probably be my age, or older rather than younger. I am frightened of immaturity.'"

A strong, maternal figure. A foil to the little boy, to the child who never knew family life. But if the fear of failure over-rides his anticipated fear of being alone, he will never risk handing over the controls to another human being.

His self-confessed selfish existence begins at 5 am when he starts dictating letters

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

Layman's Revenge — or Tales of the Unexpected

WINTER may be giving us her frozen all, the recession may be the worst for 60 years but we have reached that glorious point in the economic cycle known as the layman's revenge. Sound a fanfare for the common man, for the experts are getting it wrong as never before.

Raise a forecast above the parapet and it will be blown off. Construct an elegant explanation and the icy wind of recession sends it tumbling. Venture out with well informed opinion and if the black ice does not get you the statistical banana skins will. To know all is to know nothing. The laymen have their revenge.

Calling the precise moment of layman's revenge is, of course, no easy matter. But when Britain's premier banker is reduced to a layman's revenge, "unexpected events" for the failure of his confidently voiced forecasts of recovery, we can be sure it is close.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, is the latest in a long line of experts forced into admitting that experience has not lived up to what they all believed were well judged hopes. Like so many battle-scarred forecasters, Mr Leigh-Pemberton now opts for the sanctuary of the past. "There is no doubt that unexpected events have delayed the recovery," he said this week, savouring the unfamiliar words "no doubt".

But such certainty dissolved when he was forced to turn his crystal ball back to the future. "The balance of probabilities..." he began. Thank you, Governor, we'll let you know.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton is far from alone in getting it wrong. The latest GDP figures, which showed that this recession is the longest since the second world war and, in annual terms, the sharpest since 1931, reminded everyone of that. After all, you would feel pretty silly looking at those figures, knowing that you had predicted that the recession would last six months and that GDP would

thereafter grow at an annual rate of 4.3 per cent, wouldn't you? Well wouldn't you, prime minister?

The City, too, is growing ever more accustomed to experts getting it wrong or, to use the modern vernacular, getting it over-enthusiastic. For here too we have been exploring new bounds of fallibility, especially in the arcane worlds of discount houses and insurance markets, which if not quite closed shops are certainly closed books to the average layman.

Certainly, it has always been beyond the ken of ordi-



nary folk to understand how anyone could earn a proper living simply by borrowing surplus money from banks and buying things called bills. Sadly, it has also proved beyond the ken of the experts at Union Discount, who this week unveiled a pre-tax loss of £23.6 million and the early retirement of Graeme Gilchrist, its chief executive.

Union blamed the losses on "unusual trading conditions". Given the traditionally close relationship between discount houses and the Bank of England, these "unusual conditions" are presumably the same as the governor's "unexpected events". The role of the dis-

count house may be obscure, but it becomes positively straightforward when compared to the complexities of life in the Lloyd's of London insurance market. Some years ago this newspaper ran an entertaining correspondence on its letters page in which readers proffered definitions of the split second. Conspicuous by its absence, though, was the obvious one of the average length of time for which even the most intelligent of lay people understand the concept of reinsurance. Blink and it's gone.

The traditional view of Lloyd's is of a market run by experts for the benefit of Britain's wealthiest individuals. Recently, though, Lloyd's has been looking more like a market run by experts for experts, at the expense — the very expensive — of Britain's wealthiest individuals. David Coleridge, the Lloyd's chairman, denied any scandal. "There is only a scandal, if it is a scandal, that we are making large underwriting losses and that individuals have to pay for them." In short, while the Governor talks about "unexpected events", Lloyd's pays for them.

But no discussion of the frailty of experts would be complete without mentioning Norman Lamont, the man who has seen more ends to this recession than the Governor of the Bank of England. This week we learnt that Mr Lamont has finally come up with the solution. He is going to borrow more money, which will enable him to cut income tax at next month's Budget.

Foolishly, I had somehow got hold of the idea that the reason we were in such a protracted economic mess was that we, the consumers, had all borrowed far too much money and now spent most of our earnings paying off that debt. So now Mr Lamont plans to solve the problem by borrowing even more money. Ah, I get it. Leave the borrowing to the experts, eh Norman?

Powers of friendly societies extended

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE friendly societies bill, which will allow societies to offer services such as credit and personal equity plans, was published yesterday.

The legislation will enable about 350 societies to offer credit for the first time, either as agent or provider. They will be able to set up and manage unit trusts, tax-free personal equity plans and provide pension management services for trustees. The societies will also be able to administer estates and execute trusts of wills.

A Friendly Societies Commission will regulate the activities of societies, protect members' funds and promote their financial stability. They will also be brought within the scope of the Policyholders Protection Act 1975, which guarantees to pay out at least 90 per cent of an investment if an insurance company should fail.

John Maples, economic secretary to the treasury, said: "This bill gives friendly societies a future."

By granting them greater powers, it will enable them to become more effective as financial institutions while retaining the principles of self-help mutuality on which they were founded.

At the end of 1990, friendly societies had about 3 million customers.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

There are some incentives for taking out a PEP now. The annual £6,000 allowance cannot be carried forward into the next tax year. And there is no guarantee that governments — of whatever colour — will continue with PEPs in their present form indefinitely...

Peep Special — in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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TT 2302

Squeezing profit out of Lloyds

THE steady gaze and vice-like handshake of Brian Pitman, Lloyds Bank's chief executive, have always marked him out as the hard man of British banking. His tough streak rescued the bank last year as he pushed through sweeping cost reductions that have fed directly into profits.

Pre-tax profits of £645 million last year, up 9 per cent, could make Lloyds the most profitable British bank for the first time in its history, despite record bad-debt provisions of £918 million, up by no less than 18 per cent.

The improvement was almost entirely due to rigorous cost control. Group staff numbers fell by 8,500 over the year to 67,200. Head office staff have been cut by a fifth, while branch employees are down by a tenth. The bank has closed 150 of its smallest and least profitable outlets to reduce the network to 1,900.

These are cuts that could have been made a decade ago as computers took over the transaction processing work that was traditionally done by ranks of clerks. It took a shock as fundamental as the present recession to force Lloyds and other

banks to make the changes. All this held the group's expenses for the year at £2.46 billion, which meant that the meagre £156 million (4 per cent) growth in income fed through to a record operating profit of £1.52 billion, up 12 per cent.

Mr Pitman forecasts that the banking industry faces a period of low income growth, due to low inflation and a sluggish economic recovery. So the cost-cutting will continue into the middle of the decade.

Mr Pitman must now address Lloyds's loan book. The bad debt provisions, 3.4 per cent of the non-mortgage book, are clearly unacceptable. Economic recovery will ease the pressure, but the bank must ensure that it receives full value from all its loans. That often means allowing companies to trade out of difficulty rather than calling in receivers.

Continued cost reductions and a modest fall in bad debts should produce profits of £750 million, putting the shares, at 402p, on a p/e ratio of 13. The yield on the 16.7p dividend is 5.5 per cent. Mr Pitman's efforts warrant the premium.

No talk-up at Dowty

BID speculation continues to surround Dowty Group but has failed to lift the shares, which have tumbled from 194p in August to 122p yesterday. Investor demand, however, remains strong, with almost 12 million shares changing hands over the past two days.

Dowty's pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £60.6 million to about £22 million this year, implying earnings of 5.6p a share and a maintained dividend of 9.2p. The chance of a payout cut and uncertainty over strategy under Bruce Ralph, the new chief executive, undermine belief in Dowty's recovery prospects.

Tony Thatcher, Mr Ralph's predecessor, left a sprawling corporation created through 24 acquisitions. The new board wants to quit information technology and electronic systems in favour of aerospace. The order book is solid, with a work schedule worth £700 million, rising to between £2 billion and £3 billion if spurs are included, although earnings will be constrained until restructuring is completed.

Gearing of 70 per cent leaves little room for manoeuvre. It is hard to see what could entice a bidder — Smiths Industries, TI Group and even Lucas have been named — to undertake the messy task Mr Ralph has set in motion. But long-term holders will eventually be rewarded.

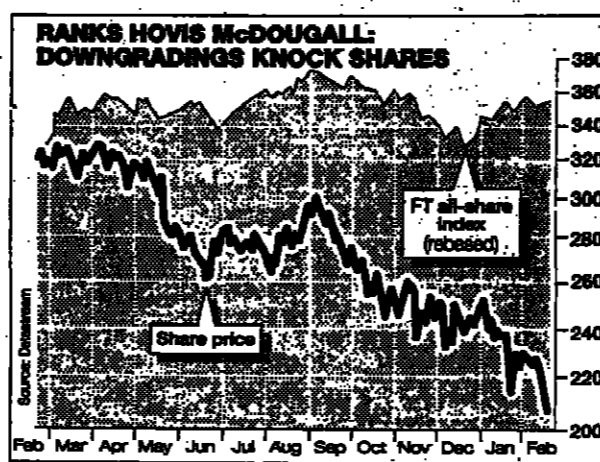
Investors still cautious despite overseas gains

THE London market ended the account on a subdued note, despite an early mark-up by dealers after Wall Street's record-breaking overnight rise and a 519-point advance by Tokyo. However, there was little follow-through in London, with investors mindful of the recent gloomy economic news and the latest opinion poll showing a 4-point lead for the Labour party.

An uncertain start on Wall Street did little to boost sentiment in London. The FT-SE 100 index ended 1.1 lower at 2,542.3, giving a 25.1-point rise on the two-week account. The FT index of 30 shares finished 6.5 down at 1,982.9, giving a 37.8-point rise on the account. Volume reached 569.5 million. Government securities were rattled by the latest opinion poll, with losses at the longer end extended to about 1p.

Most of the clearing banks perked up after Lloyds, up 17p to 404, began the reporting season with a 9 per cent advance in both profits and the dividend. Barclays added 2p to 387p before figures on Wednesday. National Westminster rose 7p to 292p before its figures on Tuesday, while Midland, which is due to report on Thursday and has been rattled by some dividend worries, lost 5p to 420p. The Royal Bank of Scotland gained 3p to 171p and Standard Chartered 6p to 455p, amid a combination of bid speculation and positive noises from Carr Kitch.

Ranks Hovis McDougall lost 9p to 206p on a turnover of 14 million shares after downgrades from Credit Lyonnais Laing and Barclays de Zoete Wedd, along with dealers' reports of a block of about 6 million shares being placed. The placing was due to have been carried out by Cazenove at 205p, although another source suggested a placing price of 207.4p. Arabella Cecil, at Credit Lyonnais Laing, has cut her



forecast for the current year to end-August from £144 million to £113 million. Next year's forecast has been reduced from £149 million to £110 million. She said retail

profits expected to fall from £60 million to "under £30 million". Others in the sector slipped back on fears that they could be hit next, with AB Foods down 7p to 432p, Northern Foods 4p to 571p and Hillsdown 2p to 151p.

Water and electricity shares took a battering as worries resurfaced in the wake of the poll findings. Anglian Water fell 7p to 364p, Northumbria 8p to 386p, North West 8p to 369p, Severn Trent 9p to 335p, Southern 9p to 337p and Thames 9p to 371p.

In the electricity sector, Eastern lost 5p to 248p, London 6p to 278p, Manweb 5p to 318p, Midlands 7p to 267p, Northern 6p to 298p and South West 5p to 278p. The package declined £7 to £2.78. The generators also dimmed, with National Power 2p lower to 213p and PowerGen off 2p to 222p, while Scottish Power dipped 1p to 100p and Scottish Hydro firmed 5p to 103p.

Euro Disney added 40p to £15.55, after £16.10, on news of its inclusion in the Paris CAC index of top 40 shares on the French bourse.

Tatevans, the Liverpool confectionery group, jumped 30p to 160p after a 165p recommended cash offer from Toms Fabrikker, a Danish luxury chocolate maker.

Vickers lost 6p to 162p before final figures on Monday, which are expected to show a big fall in profits, or small losses, and a possible cut in the dividend. NRC, which will reveal its figures on Sunday, eased 5p to 239p.

Berisford International lost 5p to 20p on news that the property and commodity group is to raise £14.8 million through a rights issue of loan stock.

British Steel was up 1p to 74p as volume reached 11 million, with Hoare Govett said to have carried out agency cross deals at the 75p level.

PHILIP PANGLOS

Closing Prices...Page 27

New York — Blue chips sank in morning dealings as options expirations kept trading extremely volatile and many investors on the sidelines. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 5.64 points to 3,275.

Tokyo — Shares closed sharply higher. The Nikkei index climbed 519.89 points, or 2.5 per cent, to 21,291.81. Program buying by institutions and futures-linked arbitrageurs on hopes of lower interest rates started a last-minute surge after a dull day. However, wariness about the economy and political scandals has put a sustained rally in doubt. (Reuters)

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Insurers need a new policy

Insurance will be only for the rich if policyholders keep on making claims for theft, one of the leading insurance companies said this week. Already 40 per cent of households in high crime areas have no insurance, and the number of drivers in inner cities who do not bother with the formality of insurance cover is rising.

Those who do have insurance are getting more and more annoyed at the delays and haggling over settling claims and the enormous increases faced by policyholders who have never made a claim. It is not surprising that some of them are deciding they will stand the risk themselves.

In central London it is not at all unusual for a family home to have a contents premium of £1,000 a year without having sideboards full of silver and expensive jewellery.

If the insurance industry is genuinely concerned about people not being able to afford contents insurance it might come up with new forms of cheaper cover that

do not include theft insurance. In the same way as motorists can opt for comprehensive or third party cover, householders could decide whether they would rather trust their locks than their insurance company to keep them safe.

Why, after all, should people who have taken every precaution to secure their homes pay for the 70 per cent of burgled homes which have locks that are not up to minimum acceptable standards? If householder carelessness and fraudulent claims are pushing up the costs to the insurance companies of theft claims, a non-theft contents policy should be a bargain.

Legal & General gives a warning that policies will have to become more complicated than they are now and be subject to many more penalties. That would only lead to even more dissatisfaction and mistrust of



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

insurers. Too many policyholders already believe that companies only want to take the premiums and will seek any excuse not to pay out. A lot more small print and exclusions would only endorse that sentiment.

Xtra charges

It is now the turn of Halifax borrowers to feel aggrieved by new charges. The 1.8 million borrowers of the largest society have received a notice with their

year-end mortgage statements telling them of new charges from April.

Those whose payment cheque is bounced or who do not have enough in their bank or Halifax account to cover the monthly direct debit will be charged £10 in future by the Halifax.

Defending the move, the Halifax said it would make three applications for payment before levying its charge, and there would be no additional charge on a Halifax current account for bouncing a debit or cheque. However, the majority of

borrowers do not bank with the Halifax and high street banks will take a different view. If a cheque is presented three times the customer could find the bank charging them £60 or more. The same goes for direct debits.

While customers should keep enough in their accounts to meet their basic outgoings, charges totalling £70 or more are not going to help.

The Halifax says that those customers who are in arrears will not be charged. Those who pay by standing order will also not be charged if they do not have enough money in their bank accounts.

Those who are near the margin might be advised to change from direct debit to standing orders. It will be cheaper for them. This, of course, flies in the face of the banking industry, which just now is trying to encourage us all to

move over to automated direct debits, which are cheaper for them to operate.

The Halifax is using the code of banking practice as its excuse for its new charges. The code, which comes into effect on March 16, states that all customers must be told in advance of any charges on accounts.

The largest building society also charges £40 for producing a sealed document confirming that a mortgage account has been repaid, and £15 for the sending of title deeds to a solicitor or licensed conveyancer acting on a customer's behalf.

Last month it announced that it was to charge savers with small amounts in their accounts a quarterly fee if their balance fell below £50 for 30 days or more a quarter.

At least the Halifax building society is treating its impoverished borrowers in the same way that it has decided to deal with its impoverished savers. It is good to know that it is still so committed to its mutual heritage.

New rules to protect occupational pensions are being hammered out, but it is proving to be a slow process

Company schemes face long wait for safeguards

By SARA MCCONNELL AND LINDSAY COOK

THE 200,000 occupational pension schemes operating in Britain have virtually no safeguards for their members and the situation is unlikely to improve in the short-term.

A flurry of recommendations aimed at tightening up the operation of these schemes is being made by interested parties, following the discovery that an estimated £458 million was plundered from the Mirror Group Pension Funds last year.

Brian McMahon, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, said this week that the Maxwell affair was not typical. The vast majority of pension funds were well run.

At the moment, company pension schemes have to be authorised by the Superannuation Funds Office of the Inland Revenue, which makes sure that they do not pay out too much to members. But it is not concerned with the whereabouts of the assets of the fund. The Occupational Pensions Board concerns itself with the part of the fund needed to replace the state earnings related pension scheme when funds are contracted out of the state scheme, but no more.

Schemes only have to produce actuarial valuations every three years, and then members and staff associations or unions do not receive them automatically. They must ask for the information. While trustees are required by law to act at all times in the interests of all the beneficiaries and in accordance with the trust deed, they are usually linked to the company and may all be directors or employees.

Proposals which would put in independent, professional trustees and make sure that assets were held by independent custodians, would need a Pensions Act and could take years to bring about.

This week, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, auditor to the late Robert Maxwell's British companies, put for-

ward their ideas. Next week, it is the turn of the Institute of Actuaries, and last month the National Association of Pension Funds made its submission on how to safeguard the interests of 11 million occupational pension scheme members and the 10 million people already receiving occupational pensions.

Coopers Deloitte wants a new regulator to be responsible for monitoring pension schemes and to administer a compulsory compensation scheme. This could cost funds 0.1 per cent or less of their assets a year. Brandon Gough, chairman of Coopers Deloitte, said. That would possibly work out at £30 a head for each pension scheme member a year.

The firm wants every occupational scheme to have at least one independent trustee who would have the power of veto on investments.

The quality of trustees should also be questioned, with the regulator having the authority to disqualify anyone who was not "fit and proper". The independent trustee would also be responsible for choosing the fund's actuary and auditor.

The accountant would ban self-investment totally, unless specifically approved by trustees. In-house investment managers should be regulated in the same way as other investment managers.

This would prevent finance directors having a punt on shares in the fund, said Paul Meins, partner in Coopers Deloitte.

The National Association of Pension Funds says that members of company pension schemes could face paying higher contributions if legislation is brought in to tighten up pension scheme safeguards and establish a compensation scheme for members.

The feasibility of setting up a central compensation scheme is being actively discussed by the research and planning committee of the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF). Options

include extending the Investors' Compensation Scheme, run by the Securities and Investments Board, either to individual scheme members or trustees. At the moment, pension funds are not covered by the compensation scheme, which pays out a maximum of £48,000 to investors with companies declared in default. Alternatively there could be a levy on pension schemes or individual members, which would go towards funding a central compensation scheme.

Mike Brown, the NAPF's director of information, said the research and planning committee had met for the first time last month to discuss the issue of compensation. This followed evidence given to the Commons social security committee on pensions by Mr McMahon at the beginning of the year. The NAPF committee hopes to report in two months on the viability of a scheme.

Mr Brown said: "The most obvious route is to compensate the trustees of the scheme because they don't have the assets to pay the scheme members if the money is — or is not — stolen."

Another school of thought is that trustees are professional investors and it is not the trustees who suffer, so the investors should get compensation. Some people are saying, why not a levy on pension schemes or employees? This could be a flat rate levy or risk-related, which would mean you could find it expensive if you were a risky trustee. It could be a scheme-based thing, with a levy based on membership numbers.

However, all these suggestions will almost certainly cost scheme members money, either directly or indirectly. Mr Brown said: "There is a distinct possibility that it will cost more if there is a scheme to provide useful benefits, if there is a major problem."

Employers who were operating well-run and well-funded schemes would also be likely to object to having to pay for losses and shortfalls in



badly funded ones. The government is unenthusiastic about any prospect of a levy being claimed through national insurance contributions, which would force many employees without the option of belonging to a pension scheme to subsidise those who have.

A compensation scheme is one element of a wider discussion on how to tighten up the operation of company pensions. The NAPF last month issued a list of safeguards. At the top of the list came calls for a much greater representation of scheme members on boards of trustees. However, companies have some way to go before

Trustees are usually linked to the firm

scheme members have equal representation on boards of trustees, according to the latest annual occupational pension survey from NAPF, out this week. Of the 778 companies questioned for the survey, 41 per cent had no employees other than management on their board of trustees. In-house individual and corporate trustees dominate the boards of both private and public sector organisations. Only a quarter of companies have independent trustees for pension schemes. Where employees are represented, the employer has some hand in the choosing them at 68 per cent of companies.

Custodians curb US misconduct

BRITISH pension funds could be safeguarded in future by the appointment of an independent custodian trustee to hold investment funds, if proposals from pensions experts are implemented. Similar trustees have been protecting pension funds in America since 1974, when the Employee Retirement Investment Security Act (ERISA) was implemented (Sara McConnell writes).

The main role of a custodian trustee is to protect the assets of the fund, provide consistent accounting records, and block any prohibited transactions. They do not generally make investment decisions and are independent of the employing company. Over the past ten years in America, independent custodian banks have increasingly offered their services as custodian trustees.

Colin Grimsey, managing director of Chase Manhattan

bank, told a seminar this week that "as a result of Enron, misconduct among American pension funds is quite rare".

The National Association of Pension Funds has already made clear its belief that the appointment of an independent custodian trustee for UK pension funds would be an important safeguard for pensioners.

But the NAPF does not have unconditional support. Clive Gilchrist, chairman of the NAPF's investment committee, told the seminar: "IFMA, the fund managers association which supported our stance in other respects — self investment for example — argues that in the case of banks that manage their own pension fund and also act as custodian the existence of Chinese walls and the efficiency of banking regulations provide sufficient safeguards."

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Door closes soon on self-investment

By LINDSAY COOK

REGULATIONS come into effect next month to limit self-investment by pension schemes. But there will be no monitoring of funds to make sure that the limits are not exceeded.

Those pension funds which have invested heavily in the company's shares will be given two years to sell any shares listed on a recognised stock exchange if they account for more than 5 per cent of the fund. For shares traded on the Unlisted Securities Market, funds will have five years to reach the 5 per cent limit.

Funds which have made loans to companies employing their members will have two years to reduce these to no more than 5 per cent of assets. If the loan cannot be repaid by March 8, 1994, then it can be retained until the earliest date on which it can be repaid. Where schemes have holdings, property, or equity in private companies, they will not need to divest. But no new investments of these kinds can be made. The regulations will not apply to

small, self-administered schemes that have fewer than 12 members, each of whom is a trustee, and where the rules of the scheme provide that self-investment can take place only with the agreement in writing of each member.

The government announced in December that it was speeding up the legislation, in the wake of the discovery that hundreds of millions of pounds were missing from the Mirror Group pension funds. The regulations made under the 1990 Social Security Act were laid before parliament this week and come into force on March 9.

The National Association of Pension Funds does not believe the regulations go far enough. This week its annual survey showed 62 per cent of occupational pension schemes allow self-investment. But at the end of last year, less than third of them had investments in the employer's shares or other assets.

The danger of self-investment is that it is often undertaken to bolster the share price in a company or to provide cashflow. Companies in difficulty may

believe that selling buildings to the pension fund and then leasing them back will save the company and the jobs of the employees and pension scheme members.

But if the price paid by the fund is too generous or the rent charged to the company too low, it can have a disastrous effect on the pension fund, especially if the company still fails. Then members can find themselves without a job and without the prospect of a good pension.

Loans have also stripped pension funds bare. In one case where Cork Gully, the liquidator, was called in recently, only £16 remained in the pension fund instead of the £500,000 expected. The rest had been lent to the employer, leaving the employees high and dry.

The social security department has promised that it will look at whether further safeguards can be built into the system when the Serious Fraud Office has completed its investigations into the Mirror Group Pension Funds.

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■ BANK of Scotland has fixed a rate for new borrowers of 10.45 per cent for three years. Remortgages can be fixed at 10.6 per cent for three years. But borrowers have to pay a £250 arrangement fee and arrange buildings and payment protection insurance through the bank.

■ EXISTING borrowers with Bristol & West are being offered a fixed rate mortgage of 10.99 per cent for between two and seven years. Bradford & Bingley has fixed its rate for three years at 10.5 per cent and four years at 10.55 per cent.

■ THE Co-op bank has cut its rates on all personal loans taken out before the end of April. The new rate for loans of over £1,000 will be 20 per cent (APR 21 per cent) and for loans under £1,000 22 per cent (APR 23.2 per cent).

■ ROYAL Life has launched a dread disease policy called Lifetime. The policy will pay a lump sum to those who survive for at least 10 days after being diagnosed as having a critical illness.

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Diminishing dividends squeeze the income funds

BY RUPERT BRUCE

THE recession has been biting into company profits for more than a year. Now investment managers fear it is about to work its way through to the distributions paid by income funds.

What happens in the next two months will be crucial because it is the time when most of Britain's biggest companies announce their profits for 1991 and the size of their dividends. Some are likely to cut their dividends, and few will do more than hold them at last year's levels. That would force many income fund managers to cut their payouts to investors.

John Allard, a director of M&G Investment Management, said: "This would, without a doubt, be as tough a period as we have seen since the early Eighties. We are in the same position that we were in ten years ago, which is a severe pressure on distribution."

M&G is one of the largest managers of UK equity income unit trusts, and says it would be extremely disappointed if it had to cut its dividends. In common with other income fund managers, it sets out to increase its distribution by at least the rate of inflation each year, and also to increase the trust's capital.

Paddy Linaker, the M&G Group's chairman, showed just how vital stable company dividends were to his funds in December 1990, when he wrote to company directors exhorting them not to cut dividends.

But Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, paved the way for dividend cuts to become more acceptable last November at the Stock Exchange annual conference for industry. "We

should, I believe, question the pressure on companies to maintain dividends even at the expense of reserves," he said.

A survey of top fund managers by Warwick Corporate, the public relations company, suggests that dividend cuts will be rare among larger companies. But the type of company thought likely to be affected, such as insurance companies and engineers, is precisely that bought for high dividends by income fund managers.

In anticipation of this, their share prices have been falling for some months. The so-called TOPSI-100 index of top yielding shares, compiled by Kleinwort Benson's Hilton Seely and Michael Daniels, actually fell by 0.4 per cent in 1991, while the FTSE 100 index rose 16.3 per cent.

According to Microcap, the performance measurement company, the average income



ERM factor: Susan Gillingham says low income growth could be here to stay

unit trust has performed almost as badly. While the value of an investment in the average general UK unit trust with income reinvested rose by 38.2 per cent in the year to February, the average UK equity income unit trust rose only 5.5 per cent.

The recession of the early Eighties took its toll of the distributions of income unit trusts in 1981. According to Premier Unit Trust Brokers' annual study, that year some 54 per cent of equity income unit trusts cut their payouts.

Peter Edwards, a Premier partner, has fears for 1992. "One feels of course that one might be projecting into this

time next year and saying that 1992 was certainly worse than 1991 and even worse than 1981," he said.

A few income unit trusts have already cut their distributions. The Framlington Extra Income's payout was cut by 1 per cent for the year ending last July, and Charles Park, fund manager, expects a 5 per cent cut this time. The Newton Income Fund will reduce its payment by 18 per cent for the year ending on February 29.

Other fund managers, who do not want to be identified, say they expect to cut their distributions soon. But they do not want to appear among

the first for fear of an exodus from their funds.

Fund managers of income funds can put off the looming dividend cut by "buying income". In its crudest form, that means buying a high-yielding share shortly before its crucial ex-dividend date and then selling it off after receiving the dividend.

But that is frowned on. Susan Gillingham, who manages Martin Currie's Income and Growth unit trust, said that such practices tended to cost the fund capital performance. Another alternative is to buy high-yielding fixed income stocks, but then there is no scope for income growth.

High-income investment trusts are also likely to come under pressure to reduce their dividend distributions. But unlike unit trusts, they can keep income in reserve. So, although the dividends from companies might not cover the dividend they decide to pay out, the shortfall can be taken from reserves.

While the 1981 recession was followed by a time when trusts raised distributions again, this time may be subtly different. Susan Gillingham thinks the low inflation associated with exchange-rate mechanism membership means dividends are unlikely to grow as rapidly.

She said: "Perhaps the man in the street will have to get used to lower dividend growth. But within a lower inflationary environment they are probably getting the same real income growth. At the end of the day they are not going to be any worse off, although they may perceive they are."

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in January 1992.

| Month purchased | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January | — | 0.641 | 0.561 | 0.487 | 0.409 |
| February | — | 0.684 | 0.555 | 0.475 | 0.404 |
| March | 0.707 | 0.637 | 0.530 | 0.461 | 0.402 |
| April | 0.673 | 0.606 | 0.530 | 0.431 | 0.388 |
| May | 0.661 | 0.602 | 0.524 | 0.424 | 0.386 |
| June | 0.657 | 0.598 | 0.520 | 0.421 | 0.387 |
| July | 0.658 | 0.590 | 0.522 | 0.424 | 0.391 |
| August | 0.656 | 0.583 | 0.526 | 0.420 | 0.388 |
| September | 0.657 | 0.576 | 0.505 | 0.421 | 0.378 |
| October | 0.649 | 0.570 | 0.496 | 0.419 | 0.377 |
| November | 0.640 | 0.565 | 0.491 | 0.414 | 0.386 |
| December | 0.643 | 0.561 | 0.492 | 0.412 | 0.381 |
| 1987 | 1.067 | 1.068 | 1.068 | 1.060 | 1.061 |
| January | 0.356 | 0.313 | 0.222 | 0.135 | 0.041 |
| February | 0.391 | 0.308 | 0.213 | 0.128 | 0.036 |
| March | 0.348 | 0.308 | 0.207 | 0.117 | 0.032 |
| April | 0.332 | 0.285 | 0.196 | 0.106 | 0.019 |
| May | 0.331 | 0.277 | 0.179 | 0.074 | 0.016 |
| June | 0.331 | 0.272 | 0.175 | 0.070 | 0.011 |
| July | 0.332 | 0.271 | 0.174 | 0.069 | 0.013 |
| August | 0.328 | 0.267 | 0.171 | 0.068 | 0.011 |
| September | 0.324 | 0.261 | 0.163 | 0.049 | 0.007 |
| October | 0.318 | 0.236 | 0.154 | 0.041 | 0.004 |
| November | 0.311 | 0.233 | 0.144 | 0.043 | 0.000 |
| December | 0.313 | 0.223 | 0.141 | 0.044 | 0.000 |

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THE M&G NEW £6,000 PEP

Broker deals under scrutiny

The trade department is currently investigating the way some small broker-managed funds are being operated to produce very high returns. Lindsay Cook reports

THE trade department, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation are investigating the way some broker-managed funds are operated.

Unusually, the brokers are not being criticised for poor performance, but for incredibly good returns. Rival brokers and some life assurance companies question how small brokers with relatively small resources can consistently outperform leading companies with their big research facilities. They suggest it could only be achieved with the help of a friendly life company, perhaps aiding the performance of good customers by allowing switches from one fund to another at the previous day's price.

The trade department issued guidelines in 1988 to life companies to stop such practice, known in the trade as window switching. In the past it was widely acknowledged to take place. Large brokers were allowed to move substantial sums and miss all the blips in the markets. Their clients were happy but all other policyholders with any company offering late switching or other concessions pay for the benefit being accorded to a few.

Assured Asset Management of Macclesfield, Cheshire, has £40 million under management and Michael Challiner, its marketing director, expects this to rise to £100 million by the end of the year, as well he might with 11 funds all outperforming the underlying life company managed funds.

So outraged is AAM at allegations that it uses win-

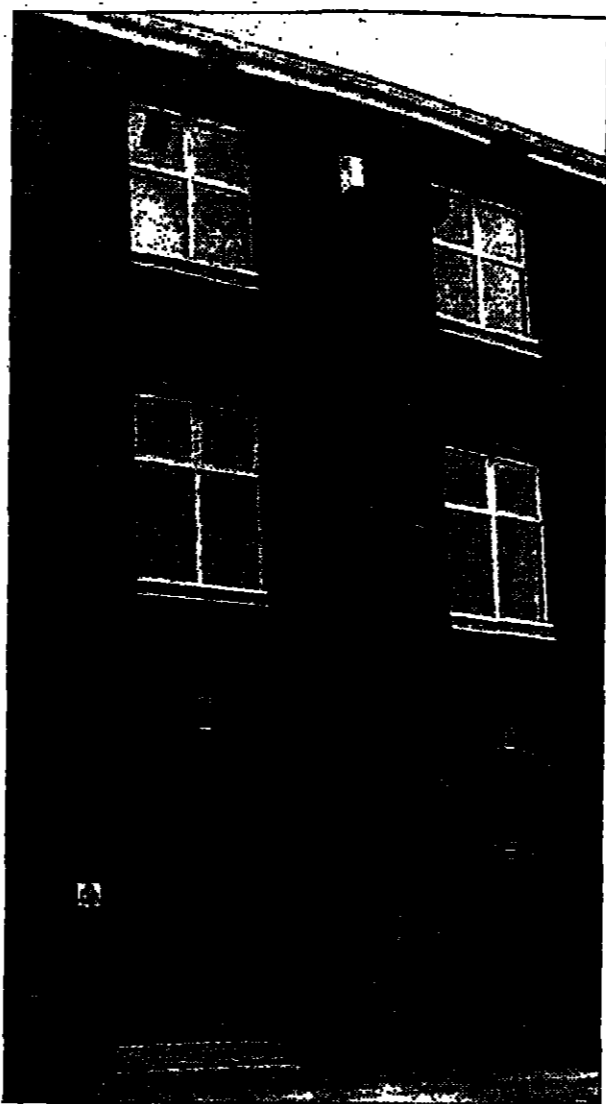
dow switching to turn in results up to three times as good as leading life companies that it took a full-page advertisement in a trade publication to say that any claims it was being allowed to deal after prices changed but at the old prices were rubbish.

Mr Challiner says the firm, whose fund managers are in the Isle of Man, is able to turn in spectacular results via a £500,000 computer system it has developed. This, he says, uses information supplied by Reuters, and enabled the fund managers to produce a return of 165 per cent to investors in its Clerical Medical broker fund from January 1987 to August 1991.

Stephen Warley of Clerical Medical said: "With all the funds forward pricing, it is very difficult to give any kind of information that would be any use." He said the firms switched into cash when the market was falling to aid their performance.

AAM's fund managers make investment decisions based on the charts it produces. Mr Challiner said that despite its remarkable performance, none of the investment houses had tried to buy his computer system to improve their performance, nor had the fund managers been poached by life companies returning a poorer performance. AAM will now manage funds for other brokers.

So confident is AAM that it has outperformed all others that it advertised in a national newspaper in the autumn, offering free champagne to anyone whose managed funds had performed better than AAM's. Mr Challiner said it only sent out one bottle of Bollinger and that was to a broker who did not technically qualify for the prize.



Powerhouse: Assured Asset Management's offices

The company charges an annual management fee of 0.75 per cent or 1 per cent plus a performance-related fee on top. This works out at 20 per cent of any gains above 12 per cent a year. Mr Challiner said the reason the fund manager is based in the Isle of Man is that the company originated there.

Nearby in Railway Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, another broker has been producing equally remarkable results. Greystone Investments plc has £45 million under management in bonds operated with ten insurance companies.

like to set up a fund with it. "There is nothing illegal in using them if life companies have them," Mr Smith continued. "We have never had a facility with an insurance company that any other broker could not have had."

Greystone outperforms the underlying funds by using satellite computer systems. He said: "We have never been caught in a big downturn ever." The company uses two Reuters services and an investment data services system. It charges an annual management fee of 0.75 per cent plus a performance fee of 25 per cent of gains above 12 per cent a year.

The Falcon Group in Bristol also outperforms the managed funds of the ten life companies it deals with. It bulk switches its clients between insurance company funds and recently advertised a return of 81.4 per cent over two years, compared with the FT-SE rising 18.5 per cent over the same period. The results are consistently better than those achieved by the managed funds of the companies said Julian Telling, managing director. "We are absolutely pulverising them."

It has £60 million under management and this is rising by £2 million a month. It uses Fi-stat for historical information and a telephone hotline updated three times a day. Mr Telling said: "There is no window switching, no historic switching. It is all forward pricing."

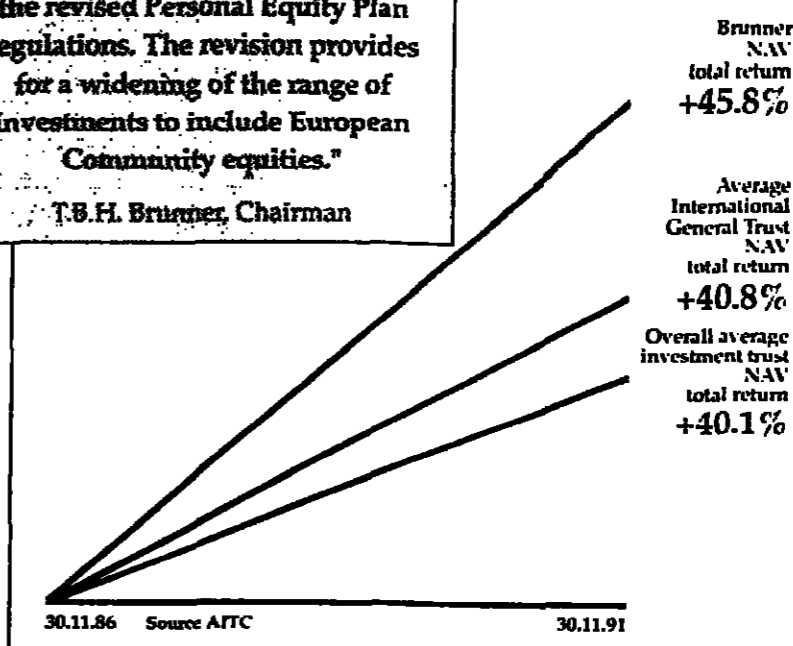
He continued that the company had a different management style to other brokers. "We employ guys who are paid to perform. If they don't, they are out."

At Fimbra, a spokesman said the matter had been brought to its attention by one of its members. The trade department said: "We are aware of concern in this area. It is not our practice to comment on individual firms."

The Brunner Investment Trust PLC

"Your Board decided in September that the Trust should become a fully qualifying investment trust under the revised Personal Equity Plan regulations. The revision provides for a widening of the range of investments to include European Community equities."

T.B.H. Brunner, Chairman



Copies of the Report and Accounts, Personal Equity Plan and Savings Scheme Brochures are available from the Secretariat, Kleinwort Benson Investment Management Limited, 10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 3LB. Tel: 071-623 8000.

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*Based upon a comparison of the top ten building societies' average nominal rates paid on balances of £3,000 in 1991. Bonuses not included. Source: MONEYFACTS.

Bears from the left

INVESTORS could find their shares in investment trust companies falling if Labour wins the general election, County NatWest predicted in its latest investment trust review this week (Sara McConnell writes).

Labour's tax plans could reduce disposable income and thus money for investment, said Robbie Robertson, County NatWest investment trust analyst and one of the authors of the report. This would push demand down, forcing the shares to trade at a wider discount to net asset value. Funds from

private investors, particularly via savings schemes, have led to narrower discounts.

The report argues that wider discounts could attract predatory institutional interest. "And even if discounts do not widen... predators could still come sniffing around."

It added that although Labour was likely to tighten up the rules for takeovers, it would probably not be particularly sympathetic to investment trusts. Investors buying into trusts after a Labour victory might, however, obtain shares cheaply.

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SAVE & PROSPER

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Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 27).

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +5 | +5 |
| 2 | +5 | +3 | +7 | +4 | +3 |
| 3 | +8 | +5 | +4 | +2 | +7 |
| 4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +4 | +5 |
| 5 | +8 | +6 | +4 | +3 | +8 |
| 6 | +7 | +3 | +8 | +5 | +3 |
| 7 | +7 | +7 | +4 | +3 | +3 |
| 8 | +4 | +5 | +8 | +5 | +8 |
| 9 | +8 | +4 | +3 | +1 | +5 |
| 10 | +6 | +8 | +6 | +4 | +3 |
| 11 | +8 | +7 | +3 | +2 | +5 |
| 12 | +7 | +5 | +3 | +3 | +7 |
| 13 | +7 | +7 | +4 | +3 | +3 |
| 14 | +7 | +4 | +7 | +3 | +3 |
| 15 | +3 | +4 | +2 | +5 | +5 |
| 16 | +8 | +5 | +2 | +2 | +5 |
| 17 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +4 | +4 |
| 18 | +7 | +8 | +3 | +2 | +7 |
| 19 | +8 | +3 | +5 | +4 | +4 |
| 20 | +3 | +5 | +4 | +6 | +5 |
| 21 | +8 | +6 | +3 | +2 | +5 |
| 22 | +5 | +3 | +8 | +4 | +4 |
| 23 | +8 | +6 | +4 | +4 | +2 |
| 24 | +6 | +2 | +6 | +4 | +2 |
| 25 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +8 |
| 26 | +9 | +4 | +3 | +2 | +8 |
| 27 | +7 | +8 | +3 | +4 | +3 |
| 28 | +8 | +3 | +5 | +3 | +3 |
| 29 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +5 | +8 |
| 30 | +5 | +3 | +5 | +5 | +4 |
| 31 | +7 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +5 |
| 32 | +7 | +4 | +7 | +4 | +3 |
| 33 | +7 | +7 | +5 | +2 | +2 |
| 34 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +4 | +5 |
| 35 | +4 | +5 | +3 | +7 | +4 |
| 36 | +8 | +7 | +4 | +3 | +3 |
| 37 | +8 | +3 | +5 | +3 | +2 |
| 38 | +7 | +7 | +4 | +3 | +4 |
| 39 | +8 | +5 | +3 | +2 | +5 |
| 40 | +6 | +7 | +4 | +2 | +2 |
| 41 | +4 | +4 | +2 | +4 | +4 |
| 42 | +8 | +4 | +4 | +2 | +5 |
| 43 | +7 | +7 | +5 | +3 | +3 |
| 44 | +5 | +4 | +8 | +5 | +3 |

At last, an investment plan that offers peace of mind, and a piece of the action.

As any serious investor knows, potentially high returns from the stock market carry with them an equally high risk. You could make a mint or lose a fortune.

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ADDRESS _____

Postcode _____ Tel (Office) _____

Date of Birth _____ Tel (Home) _____

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Before you look to your future, look to our past.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

| Bank | Normal rate | Compounded rate | Max/min | Notice | Contact |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Ordinary Dep A/c | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.12 | none/none | 7 day |
| Fixed Term Deposits | | | | | |
| 1 month | 7.50 | 7.50 | 6.11 | 25,000-50,000 | 1 mth 071-626 1957 |
| 3 months | 7.50 | 7.50 | 6.00 | 25,000-50,000 | 3 mth 071-626 1957 |
| 6 months | 7.50 | 7.50 | 5.90 | 25,000-50,000 | 6 mth 071-626 1957 |
| 1 year | 7.50 | 7.50 | 5.80 | 25,000-50,000 | 1 yr 071-626 1957 |
| 2 years | 7.50 | 7.50 | 5.70 | 25,000-50,000 | 2 yr 071-626 1957 |
| 3 years | 7.50 | 7.50 | 5.60 | 25,000-50,000 | 3 yr 071-626 1957 |
| 4 years | 7.50 | 7.50 | 5.50 | 25,000-50,000 | 4 yr 071-626 1957 |
| 5 years | 7.50 | 7.50 | 5.40 | 25,000-50,000 | 5 yr 071-626 1957 |
| Midland | 6.50 | 6.50 | 5.25 | 10,000-25,000 | 1 mth 0742 528555 |
| 1 year | 6.50 | 6.50 | 5.15 | 10,000-25,000 | 1 yr 0742 528555 |
| 2 years | 6.50 | 6.50 | 5.05 | 10,000-25,000 | 2 yr 0742 528555 |
| 3 years | 6.50 | 6.50 | 4.95 | 10,000-25,000 | 3 yr 0742 528555 |
| 4 years | 6.50 | 6.50 | 4.85 | 10,000-25,000 | 4 yr 0742 528555 |
| 5 years | 6.50 | 6.50 | 4.75 | 10,000-25,000 | 5 yr 0742 528555 |
| Barclays | 6.50 | 6.50 | 5.10 | 10,000-25,000 | 1 mth 071-726 1000 |
| 1 year | 6.50 | 6.50 | 5.00 | 10,000-25,000 | 1 yr 071-726 1000 |
| 2 years | 6.50 | 6.50 | 4.90 | 10,000-25,000 | 2 yr 071-726 1000 |
| 3 years | 6.50 | 6.50 | 4.80 | 10,000-25,000 | 3 yr 071-726 1000 |
| 4 years | 6.50 | 6.50 | 4.70 | 10,000-25,000 | 4 yr 071-726 1000 |
| 5 years | 6.50 | 6.50 | 4.60 | 10,000-25,000 | 5 yr 071-726 1000 |

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

| Bank | Normal rate | Compounded rate | Max/min | Notice | Contact |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|--------|-------------------|
| HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS | | | | | |
| Bank of Scotland | 6.17 | 6.33 | 5.06 | 2,500 | none 031-442 7777 |
| Barclays | 5.75 | 5.91 | 4.73 | 2,500 | none 0804 258991 |
| Co-operative | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.52 | 1,000 | none 071 623 6543 |
| 1 year | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.42 | 1,000 | 1 yr 071 623 6543 |
| 2 years | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.32 | 1,000 | 2 yr 071 623 6543 |
| 3 years | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.22 | 1,000 | 3 yr 071 623 6543 |
| 4 years | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.12 | 1,000 | 4 yr 071 623 6543 |
| 5 years | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.02 | 1,000 | 5 yr 071 623 6543 |
| Midland | 4.80 | 4.85 | 3.86 | 2,000 | none 0742 528555 |
| 1 year | 4.80 | 4.85 | 3.76 | 2,000 | 1 yr 0742 528555 |
| 2 years | 4.80 | 4.85 | 3.66 | 2,000 | 2 yr 0742 528555 |
| 3 years | 4.80 | 4.85 | 3.56 | 2,000 | 3 yr 0742 528555 |
| 4 years | 4.80 | 4.85 | 3.46 | 2,000 | 4 yr 0742 528555 |
| 5 years | 4.80 | 4.85 | 3.36 | 2,000 | 5 yr 0742 528555 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland | 5.63 | 5.70 | 3.87 | 500 | none 071-374 3374 |
| 1 year | 5.63 | 5.70 | 3.77 | 500 | 1 yr 071-374 3374 |
| 2 years | 5.63 | 5.70 | 3.67 | 500 | 2 yr 071-374 3374 |
| 3 years | 5.63 | 5.70 | 3.57 | 500 | 3 yr 071-374 3374 |
| 4 years | 5.63 | 5.70 | 3.47 | 500 | 4 yr 071-374 3374 |
| 5 years | 5.63 | 5.70 | 3.37 | 500 | 5 yr 071-374 3374 |
| TSB Bank | 4.69 | 4.69 | 3.79 | 2,000 | none 071-600 6000 |
| 1 year | 4.69 | 4.69 | 3.69 | 2,000 | 1 yr 071-600 6000 |
| 2 years | 4.69 | 4.69 | 3.59 | 2,000 | 2 yr 071-600 6000 |
| 3 years | 4.69 | 4.69 | 3.49 | 2,000 | 3 yr 071-600 6000 |
| 4 years | 4.69 | 4.69 | 3.39 | 2,000 | 4 yr 071-600 6000 |
| 5 years | 4.69 | 4.69 | 3.29 | 2,000 | 5 yr 071-600 6000 |

BUILDING SOCIETIES

| Bank | Normal rate | Compounded rate | Max/min | Notice | Contact |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| BUILDING SOCIETIES | | | | | |
| Ordinary Share | 5.25 | 5.25 | 4.20 | 1 mth | none |
| 1 year | 5.25 | 5.25 | 4.10 | 1 yr | none |
| 2 years | 5.25 | 5.25 | 4.00 | 2 yr | none |
| 3 years | 5.25 | 5.25 | 3.90 | 3 yr | none |
| 4 years | 5.25 | 5.25 | 3.80 | 4 yr | none |
| 5 years | 5.25 | 5.25 | 3.70 | 5 yr | none |
| Best buy - largest socs: | | | | | |
| Portman | 7.13 | 7.13 | 5.71 | 500 min | Inst |
| 1 year | 7.13 | 7.13 | 5.61 | 500 min | 1 yr |
| 2 years | 7.13 | 7.13 | 5.51 | 500 min | 2 yr |
| 3 years | 7.13 | 7.13 | 5.41 | 500 min | 3 yr |
| 4 years | 7.13 | 7.13 | 5.31 | 500 min | 4 yr |
| 5 years | 7.13 | 7.13 | 5.21 | 500 min | 5 yr |
| Best buy - all socs: | | | | | |
| Northwich & Pils | 6.48 | 6.48 | 5.78 | 1,000 min | Inst |
| 1 year | 6.48 | 6.48 | 5.68 | 1,000 min | 1 yr |
| 2 years | 6.48 | 6.48 | 5.58 | 1,000 min | 2 yr |
| 3 years | 6.48 | 6.48 | 5.48 | 1,000 min | 3 yr |
| 4 years | 6.48 | 6.48 | 5.38 | 1,000 min | 4 yr |
| 5 years | 6.48 | 6.48 | 5.28 | 1,000 min | 5 yr |
| Best buy - Cash Cheque Accounts: | | | | | |
| Card Cash | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.80 | 50 min | Inst |
| 1 year | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.70 | 50 min | 1 yr |
| 2 years | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.60 | 50 min | 2 yr |
| 3 years | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.50 | 50 min | 3 yr |
| 4 years | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.40 | 50 min | 4 yr |
| 5 years | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.30 | 50 min | 5 yr |

NATIONAL SAVINGS

| Bank | Normal rate | Compounded rate | Max/min | Notice | Contact |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|--------------------|
| NATIONAL SAVINGS | | | | | |
| Ordinary A/c | 5.00 | 3.75 | 3.00 | 5-10,000 | 8 day 041-648-4555 |
| 1 year | 5.00 | 3.65 | 2.90 | 5-10,000 | 1 yr 041-648-4555 |
| 2 years | 5.00 | 3.55 | 2.80 | 5-10,000 | 2 yr 041-648-4555 |
| 3 years | 5.00 | 3.45 | 2.70 | 5-10,000 | 3 yr 041-648-4555 |
| 4 years | 5.00 | 3.35 | 2.60 | 5-10,000 | 4 yr 041-648-4555 |
| 5 years | 5.00 | 3.25 | 2.50 | 5-10,000 | 5 yr 041-648-4555 |
| Investment A/c | 10.25 | 7.88 | 6.15 | 2,000-25,000 | 3 mth 0293 69151 |
| 1 year | 10.25 | 7.78 | 6.05 | 2,000-25,000 | 1 yr 0293 69151 |
| 2 years | 10.25 | 7.68 | 5.95 | 2,000-25,000 | 2 yr 0293 69151 |
| 3 years | 10.25 | 7.58 | 5.85 | 2,000-25,000 | 3 yr 0293 69151 |
| 4 years | 10.25 | 7.48 | 5.75 | 2,000-25,000 | 4 yr 0293 69151 |
| 5 years | 10.25 | 7.38 | 5.65 | 2,000-25,000 | 5 yr 0293 69151 |
| Best buy - Cash Cheque Accounts: | | | | | |
| Card Cash | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.80 | 50 min | Inst |
| 1 year | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.70 | 50 min | 1 yr |
| 2 years | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.60 | 50 min | 2 yr |
| 3 years | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.50 | 50 min | 3 yr |
| 4 years | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.40 | 50 min | 4 yr |
| 5 years | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.30 | 50 min | 5 yr |

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

| Bank | Normal rate | Compounded rate | Max/min | Notice | Contact |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|------------|---------|
| GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS | | | | | |
| Property | 8.70 | 8.70 | 7.40 | 25,000 min | 1 yr |
| 1 year | 8.70 | 8.70 | 7.30 | 25,000 min | 1 yr |
| 2 years | 8.70 | 8.70 | 7.20 | 25,000 min | 2 yr |
| 3 years | 8.70 | 8.70 | 7.10 | 25,000 min | 3 yr |
| 4 years | 8.70 | 8.70 | 7.00 | 25,000 min | 4 yr |
| 5 years | 8.70 | 8.70 | 6.90 | 25,000 min | 5 yr |
| Liberty Life | 9.00 | 9.00 | 7.65 | 25,000 min | 1 yr |
| 1 year | 9.00 | 9.00 | 7.55 | 25,000 min | 1 yr |
| 2 years | 9.00 | 9.00 | 7.45 | 25,000 min | 2 yr |
| 3 years | 9.00 | 9.00 | 7.35 | 25,000 min | 3 yr |
| 4 years | 9.00 | 9.00 | 7.25 | 25,000 min | 4 yr |
| 5 years | 9.00 | 9.00 | 7.15 | 25,000 min | 5 yr |

1. 2.5% for balances below £500. 2. 2.0% of interest tax free. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 3. Additional holdings up to £10,000 for interest on existing holdings. 4. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 5. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 6. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 7. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 8. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 9. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 10. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 11. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 12. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 13. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 14. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 15. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 16. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 17. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 18. Interest income for withdrawal of £100 or more. 19. 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Clearing up the mystery of cheques in limbo

BY SARA MCCONNELL

FROM next month, banks and building societies will have to spell out in detail how long customers must wait before they can draw or receive interest on cheques paid into their accounts.

Many banks will be giving this information for the first time as a requirement of the banking code, which comes into operation on March 16. Under the code, they will have to explain the terms and conditions of current accounts to customers, including turnaround times for clearing cheques. But the code will not compel them to standardise and shorten that time.

The Association for Payment Clearing Services (Apacs), of which the major clearing banks, the Nationwide and the Abbey National, are members, said: "If people don't like the timetable then they can change their account. The banking code should give greater transparency."

The Nationwide is already thinking about shortening its clearing times. At the moment it can take up to seven days before customers can withdraw funds from Flex-Account current accounts if cheques over £1,500 have been deposited. Cheques for under £1,500 can be withdrawn after three days. Cheques to savings accounts take seven days to clear.

Lenders to Weekend Money have criticised the time it takes for Nationwide to clear cheques. Dennis Brockwell, the society's divisional director, banking and savings, said: "We are thinking of bringing the times down."

Customers are likely to be told that it will take between four and seven working days after a cheque has been paid



Cheque check clearing at the Abbey National

into an account before the money can actually be used. But clearing times vary between banks and between transactions. Sometimes funds may not be withdrawn for as long as ten working days.

Talks are under way between the banks, Apacs and the Treasury to reduce the number of pieces of paper

going through the system. At the moment, under the Bills of Exchange Act 1882, all cheques paid have to be sent to the bank branch they were drawn on so that the account can be debited.

However, a change in the law could be avoided by initially making computer tapes of transactions, then sending the cheques to the branches

later, Mr Brockwell said. Any change is some way off. Nationwide, like the Halifax and the Abbey National, processes its cheques at head office after they arrive through the clearing system, instead of through branches like the banks.

A cheque should take three working days to pass through the clearing system, which handles about 10 million every day, according to Apacs. A cheque written from an account held at one bank is paid into an account at another. The next day it arrives at the London clearing house, where all the cheques from different banks are exchanged. On the third day, the cheque is sent to the bank branch it was drawn on. On the morning of the fourth day, the cheque should be debited to the account of the person who wrote it and the money should be available in the account of the person who received it. Cheques paid into bank branches in Scotland will take a day longer because they have to pass through the Edinburgh clearing system before arriving in London.

However, many banks make their customers wait for another couple of days to be sure the cheque paid into their account has not bounced. If it has, under the clearing rules it has to be sent back through the post. Most banks say that they will not wait until the bouncer end to be sure a cheque has not bounced. Some will also start paying interest on funds before they allow them to be withdrawn. Cheques which are specially urgent can be cleared more quickly, but banks charge between £5 and £12 an item for sending a cheque directly to the branch holding the account on which it is drawn.

TIME TAKEN TO CLEAR CHEQUES

| Clearer | Interest paid after | Funds available after | Special clearance |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Barclays | 3 | 5 (own branch) 6 (another branch) | £10 |
| NatWest | 4 | 4 (own branch) 3 (another branch) | £12 |
| Lloyds | 4 | 4 | £12 |
| Midland | 4 | 4 | £10 |
| Abbey National | 4 | 4 | £10 |
| Halifax | 3 | 5 | £5 |
| Nationwide | 3 | 3 (under £1500) 7 (over £1500) | £10 |

Direct debits on the campaign trail

BY LINDSAY COOK

OVER the next few weeks, 100 million mailings will be sent to the customers of utilities and banks to encourage them to use direct debits instead of cheques or standing orders to pay regular bills.

The mailings are backed by a £1.5 million television advertisement campaign which started on Monday. The advertisements on all commercial channels and satellite television suggest that direct debits can take some of the pain out of opening the post at breakfast-time by spreading the payment of bills over 12 months.

Last year, 903 million payments were made by direct debits. This compares with more than four billion cheques being written and 234 million bills being paid by standing order. As far as

the banks are concerned, cheques are bad news. The number being written peaked last year and is now falling, thanks to the wider use of debit cards.

Banks, utilities and other financial institutions like direct debits because they cost only a few pence each time to operate and only a small number fail to deliver the cash on time. This compares with cheques which cost small businesses 60p a time to deposit and possibly £1 in total administration costs.

Cheques are also posted late, may be cancelled or so badly written they cannot be paid, and many of them bounce. Once an organisation has an account holder's permission, it can claim payments at regular intervals from the account until the permission is withdrawn.

Unlike standing orders, the company can change the

amount paid. Standing orders require the customer to authorise an increase or reduction. However, customers should be notified 14 days before any change. If they do not agree to the increase they can stop it going ahead. This is particularly useful for gas or electricity, budget, accounts. The early notice of a change gives the customer a chance to discuss how much the payments should be.

The advantage to customers is that quarterly, half-yearly or annual bills can be split into 12 smaller payments, which leave their account on the same day of the month. Companies are vet-

ted before they are acceptable to BACS, the company that operates bulk electronic clearing.

If a wrong amount is taken from an account, customers should complain to their bank or building society. The sum should automatically be refunded without question while any dispute is sorted out.

Sometimes, however, junior bank staff are less aware than they should be about the direct debit system. BACS is preparing a video to make sure that staff in banks and building societies are clear about the rules for direct debits.

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| 2 | Reed Int | Newspaper/Pub | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 3 | Dowling Mills | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 4 | Stoke | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Boddington | Breweries | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 6 | Lambert | Shops/Ltd | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 7 | Union Dac | Bank/Disc | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 8 | Transfer Tech | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 9 | Sainsbury J | Food | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 10 | Wilson Bowden | Building/Rtd | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 11 | Dalry | Food | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 12 | Mowlem (J) | Building/Rtd | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 13 | Amec Br Port | Transport | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 14 | Stentor Corp | Newspaper/Pub | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 15 | Benson Dac | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 16 | Cartmel Test | Transport | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 17 | Litmar | Oil/Gas | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 18 | WPP | Paper/Print | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 19 | Leeds Wm Co | Drugs/Pharm | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 20 | Park Foods | Food | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 21 | Sage Co | Electrical | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 22 | Reid Cols | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 23 | Ryl Bk Soc | Bank/Disc | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 24 | Unitech | Electrical | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 25 | Flax Art Dev | Drugs/Pharm | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 26 | Flax Art Dev | Drugs/Pharm | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 27 | Flax Art Dev | Drugs/Pharm | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 28 | Wace | Paper/Print | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 29 | Shirley | Food | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 30 | Green Int | Paper/Print | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 31 | Headline | Newspaper/Pub | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 32 | Black & Johnson | Building/Rtd | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 33 | Hepworth | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 34 | Omni Vynyl | Drugs/Pharm | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
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| 36 | Black | Electrical | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 37 | MMT Comp | Electrical | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 38 | Phibbs | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 39 | Tidman | Electrical | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 40 | Smith David | Paper/Print | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 41 | Stead Chart | Bank/Disc | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 42 | Kalon | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 43 | Asprey | Drugs/Pharm | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| 44 | Steno Co | Industrial | 1.00 | 0.0 | 0.00 |

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Account ends quietly

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Putting the stress on the executive

The news reported last week that the head of Sony in Japan attributes the failures of British industry to accountants occupying too many of the top jobs will have come as a blow to the pride of the profession. A chief selling point for accountancy as a career has been that it provides a gateway to the top corporate positions. If British examinations have led to a swift exit from the firm. With fewer young qualified leaving voluntarily to join industry the numbers are stacking up in the firms. Meanwhile the largest partnerships are coming under pressure to cut fees. Not so long ago the graduates within the profession claimed not to compete on price: if clients wanted their services and their expertise, then they would have to pay for it. It is an entirely different story now. Clients are under intense financial pressure themselves and want to cut costs as much as possible. Accountancy fees for the annual audit are seen as an undesirable — and often an unproductive — overhead. Consequently partners in the big six are having to negotiate

Accountancy is under pressure to train more business-minded recruits, writes Edward Fennell

fied staff. Trainees have even been made redundant while still on their way to their examinations. In other cases failure to pass professional examinations has led to a swift exit from the firm. With fewer young qualified leaving voluntarily to join industry the numbers are stacking up in the firms. Meanwhile the largest partnerships are coming under pressure to cut fees. Not so long ago the graduates within the profession claimed not to compete on price: if clients wanted their services and their expertise, then they would have to pay for it. It is an entirely different story now. Clients are under intense financial pressure themselves and want to cut costs as much as possible. Accountancy fees for the annual audit are seen as an undesirable — and often an unproductive — overhead. Consequently partners in the big six are having to negotiate

'We're looking for pro-active financial managers, not bean counters'

over their fees or even tender for the work.

As a result salaries are lower all round. It is the young, newly qualified accountants who bear the brunt of the routine work on audits. So whether they stay in public practice or try to leave to go into industry their drawing power is reduced. Figures published within the last couple of weeks by recruitment agents Michael Page Financial have confirmed the trend. As the commentary on salary appraisal says: "Over the past 12 months salaries have not seen the increases experienced in previous years. Salaries for newly qualifieds have seen slight changes."

In fact, most salaries are now virtually at a standstill. This is in marked contrast to the recent salary increases announced by the government for teachers, nurses and other public sector workers. Whereas those have exceeded

the level of inflation, accountants are now trailing behind it. And in many cases the salaries being offered are actually less than for equivalent jobs a year ago.

For example, the typical salaries in the north for newly qualified chartered accountants going into industry and commerce have dropped from £22,500 in 1991 to £22,000 this year. And in the London region average salaries for the newly qualified have dropped from £25,500 in 1991 to £24,000 this year. Only in the south-west and Wales is there any increase — from £22,500 to £23,000 — but this is exceptional since salaries are generally at a standstill in the region.

Industry and commerce do still hold out the prospect of higher salaries for really good people. In effect, British business will in future set out to recruit the cream of newly qualified young accountants. This may have significance for the training and qualifications system. Reforms recently introduced by the Institute of Chartered Accountants now permit young people to be trained as chartered accountants in industry and commerce.

So far there has been only fairly limited take-up of this option but its supporters argue that it has advantages for both employers and trainees. In the case of GEC-Marconi, for example, it is said that



what the firm really wants are accountants with practical experience. Thus young accountants trained within the company actually gain a three-year head start over those trying to enter the company from public practice.

Moreover a large organisation like GEC is able to give the breadth and variety of experience which has supposedly been a chartered

accountant's greatest strength. And by being reared within the corporate ethos accountants can target their skills more quickly on the company's needs. As the Marconi group comments: "We're looking for pro-active financial managers, not bean counters."

It has been to rebut the view that young accountants are just "bean counters" that the Institute of Chartered

Accountants in England and Wales has been rethinking its qualification system in recent years. Already it is much more business-orientated, and research now in progress is developing a radical new approach for the future.

In conjunction with occupational psychologists Moloney & Geary, work is proceeding which could lead to trainee accountants' skills being assessed on an entirely

different basis: the current exam-based system is likely to be downgraded and much greater emphasis placed on the continuous assessment of practical competence. It is still early days, but the predictions are that big changes lie ahead for the training and qualification of young accountants. Who knows, they may even be good enough to satisfy the head of Sony.

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McColgan targets record

is just that it fits nicely into my programme. Of the European indoor championships she added: "It's really a matter of seeing how I feel after this weekend."

Few athletes worldwide had a better year in 1990 than McColgan, but Morcel was one of them. He set

world record for the indoor 1,500 metres, and, though he failed to break the outdoor world record, he took the world title in Tokyo. He is

Britain has its own fast talker, though his legs cannot yet match Morceli's. Matchwreath Yates, who feels Morceli is coming into range, lines up against him today in the 1,000 metres. The record belongs to the Dutchman, Roland Dringens, at 2min 16.4sec.

Elliott's drugs 'in eye drops'

High hopes of a fresh ITV deal

YATES

pete in eight or nine ranking tournaments during the 1992-3 season. The fate of the European Open will be decided after this year's event in Antwerp from March 10-19.

Among the 174 players turning professional next season will be Ronnie O'Sulli-

van, aged 16, from Chigwell, who won last year's world junior championship in In-

dia, and Noppadon Noppachorn, of Thailand, the 1991 world amateur champion. The number of women

playing members of the WPBSA has been increased to seven by the acceptance of Tessa Davidson, of Banbury, who compiled the highest break by a woman in competition, a 135 total clearance, during the British Ladies

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

[illegible]

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Fascinating match-ups for Pilkington Cup quarter-finals

Rosslyn Park can convert mystery into a thriller

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE should be a leap Saturday every year. The insertion of an extra day has created the longer-than-usual gap between international matches from February 15 to March 7 — which enables the leading players to concentrate on domestic rugby. In the case of England and Wales, it is their respective cup competitions which, by this afternoon, will have left the Pilkington Cup with only four contenders.

It is a fascinating quarter-final draw, partly because of the local rivalries involved at Bristol and Rochampton, partly because the two leading first division teams meet at Orrell and partly because the one second division club remaining, Newcastle Gosforth, is not without a hope of upsetting Leicester, their illustrious visitors.

Rosslyn Park have taken the opportunity to create an air of mystery by refusing to name their team to play Harlequins, the holders, until today. Whether Harlequins will

regard it as mysterious is another matter; they know Park so well they could probably name their team for them. The smokescreen may be partly a result of the unhappiness Park's coach and captain felt when Simon Dear, their England B lock, announced his intention of joining the Quins earlier this month. The best place for Park to make their point is on the pitch and they have had the assistance this week of Roger Uttley, England's grand slam coach.

Moreover, they catch Harlequins under-strength: two of their internationals, David

Pears and Neil Edwards, will be missing.

Pears, the full back who won his third cap at stand-off half last weekend, broke a thumb in training and may not be able to take his place in England's squad against Wales next month. Edwards has a broken nose but the Scottish team management is confident that he will be ready to play against France on March 7.

Orrell have added to the mystery, if not mystique, of the cup by choosing John Carleton on their wing, in the absence on holiday of Nigel Heslop. "I was watching a

video of the 1980 grand slam in which John scored four tries and thought 'he'll do for us in the cup'." Des Seabrook, the coach of Orrell, said.

Quite what relevance Carleton's form of 12 years ago has to today remains to be seen but Gloucester will examine it closely; their essential virtues will be sustained despite the sad loss on Thursday of their long-serving secretary, Terry Tandy, who died of a heart attack. His memory will be honoured before today's game.

Bath should maintain their recent dominance over Bristol and Leicester, on their third trip to the north this season, should have enough in hand to meet the challenge of Newcastle Gosforth.

While seven first division heavyweights slug it out, Wasps, with Dean Ryan returning at No. 8 after a knee operation, could slip into second place in the league by defeating Saracens, and Nottingham could add a little lustre to their season by defeating Rugby and moving off the bottom of the table.

High spot at low level

THE Australian Rugby Union yesterday rubber-stamped the decision to play four matches in South Africa in August but will ask that the international be played at sea level — either in Cape Town or Durban (David Hands writes).

"There is a concern, based on scientific and medical ad-

vice, that we would disadvantage the Wallabies by playing the international at Ellis Park or Pretoria," Bob Fordham, the ARU chief executive, said. The union's annual meeting also heard details of the proposed players' company, organised to promote and market the game in the wake of the World Cup success.

Pilkington Cup

Quarter-finals

Bristol v Bath

Bristol ring the changes in their back division by moving Hull from full back to stand-off and Wagham from centre to full back. A reshaped front row includes Hilton, Hickey and Regan at hooker instead of the injured Palmer. Despite worries over the fitness of Hall and Ubbog, both play for Bath, who have won two of their three previous cup games with Bristol.

Newcastle G v Leicester

ten Chandler retains the full back position he has occupied for the last month in the absence of the injured Bennett in a full-strength Newcastle Gosforth team. Leicester have preferred Hackney to Tony Underwood on the right wing and restore Boyle to the centre against opponents who have never beaten them in the cup.

Orrell v Gloucester

The return of Carleton on Orrell's wing for the unavailable Heslop is the only surprise. Clearly remaining at blind-side flanker, Gloucester have their international contingent playing in a half-strength team for the third cup meeting between the clubs, of which Orrell won the first in 1987 and Gloucester the second the following year.

Rosslyn Park v Harlequins

The Park's team will not be unveiled until today but Harlequins are not so modest; injuries deprive them of Pears, Edwards, Langham, Gray and Russell so they are likely to field a makeshift team. The stand-off position and Standford (lock) and Sheehy (No. 8) reinforce the pack. In 1981 the Park ousted Quins from the cup but last season were beaten 24-12 in the quarter-finals.

Troubled waters smoothed by Ripley

BY DAVID HANDS

ROWING, with oars, or rowing, with his near-neighbours' Andy Ripley has his share of the former in Boston (Mass) last weekend. He has no intention of letting perceived differences of opinion with Harlequins create different waves when his club, Rosslyn Park, take on the Pilkington Cup holders today at Rochampton (SW15).

Ripley, who so frequently adorns public occasions with expressions of "love and peace" as a reminder of the 1960s, when he was growing up to become England's most unusual No. 8, was not voted president of the Park merely for his pacifist qualities. The competitor remains but coloured, as always, with common sense and humour which surfaces at the most unlikely times.

A week ago Ripley and Roger Uttley, sometime colleagues for England, took part in the age-group world championship of indoor static rowing, an esoteric pursuit for which nature has equipped Ripley well. He won the 1000m second, and half the fun was to be prepared for the final by "proper" rowers — Steve Redgrave coached Ripley, and Matthew Pinsent did the honours for Uttley.

Now, the two rugby players are being threatened with a weekend with a "real" four, on the water. No doubt as they crossed the Atlantic, Uttley, until last November the England rugby coach, and Ripley discussed the move from the Park to Harlequins of Simon Dear, the England B lock, which caused a degree of trepidation in the Park. "There is no problem," Ripley said. "Rosslyn Park and Harlequins have been trading players for 20 years, so my knowledge.



Hopeful: Ripley relishes prospect of a fine game

"We would probably prefer the trade to be in the other direction, but one of the reasons England are strong at the moment is because Harlequins are strong. It's nothing to do with money or jobs but the recognition that they are a route to the national side. I have seen them strong and I have seen them weak; now they have a great organisation and it's natural players gravitate towards them. That's a fact of life. The only thing we were disappointed about was the timing, the feeling perhaps that rugby was about friendship and standing by your mates when times were rough. Some people at

Park felt let down. But if Simon's heart wasn't in it, then he has been a brave boy. He has done us no disservice. He has created an opportunity and a problem, and it's his problem. "What we have this weekend is a great rugby match in prospect. We have a couple of excellent locks in John Fowler and Bill Davison, and they will be going hard. I've been a Park player for 20 years and will be with them for another 20, but I also take great pride in what has happened to the England side, and part of that is built around Harlequins." There should be no rowing at Rochampton this weekend.

Jones will miss the police cup call

BY GERALD DAVIES

SWANSEA, the leaders of the first division, will be without Robert Jones, their international scrum-half, when they play South Wales Police today in the sixth round of the Schweppes Cup. Jones has not been able to train all week because of the severe bruising he received during last Saturday's stylish 24-13 defeat of Neath.

Mike Ruddock, the Swansea coach, believed that Jones was at the end of an unprovoked punch. This has been confirmed on the video recording of the game. Others believed that Jones was given further excessive and unwarranted attention.

South Wales Police head the second division. "They have a good pack that likes to keep things tight," Ruddock said. "But we won't change our style of play because of that or the fact that this is a knockout.

"The team is now playing confidently and it would be a mistake to go against the grain of what they believe. I've not always advocated this style because the quality of players have simply not been around. Now, though, the players are here at Swansea and it would be negative to kick the ball off the park all afternoon."

Neath, who will visit Llanelli for their seventh meeting in the competition, have yet to win at Stradey Park. Llanelli play their 100th game, a record in the history of the cup, with Lawrence Delaney, their prop, making his 54th appearance, two short of the record set by Ray Givens. In the oldest of local derbies, their 377th meeting, Newport go to Cardiff, who are second from the bottom of the first division and thankful, by now, that there is no relegation this season. Of their four cup-meetings Cardiff have won three but lost the final in 1977.

Van Heerden calls for the French to adapt

ANDRIES van Heerden, the South African-born No. 8 who won his first cap for France against England last weekend, pinpointed yesterday in *L'Equipe*, the sports newspaper, the way forward for French rugby after the dismissal of two front-row forwards at the Parc des Princes (David Hands writes).

"It's up to the French to change," van Heerden, who has played for Toulon for six years, said. "British referees are without doubt the best. When an Englishman rucks, it's within the rules. When it's

a Frenchman, it's to hurt because they are violent by nature.

"You have to learn to control yourself when it gets tough. Coaches must understand... [in the club championship] there are teams that want to wreck the game and those that try to impose their style."

"There are coaches who order their teams to start a fight if things aren't going well. Between two strong teams that doesn't happen. By contrast games against smaller clubs often explode."

Carvill's Hill dwindles to 5-4 as confidence grows

BY MICHAEL SEELY

WITH the Cheltenham Gold Cup still almost three weeks away, Carvill's Hill was yesterday cut from 6-4 to a cramped 5-4 by Ladbrokes.

"All the talk in the betting shops is now about Cheltenham," Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, said. "Everyone seems to be deciding that they want to start by backing Carvill's Hill. There were a lot of four-figure bets around at Kempton during the afternoon."

Confidence at Wellington in last Sunday's impressive Leopardstown winner landing the first leg of the ambitious Gold Cup-Grand National double remains unbounded. "Carvill's Hill is very well," Martin Pipe said. "I only wish that the Gold Cup was tomorrow."

On the Champion Hurdle front, the best-backed horse in the past week has been Royal Gait, who has been supported from 20-1 the morning before his impressive win at Nottingham to his present odds of 7-1.

Yesterday, James Fanshawe, trainer of Sheikh Mohammed's exciting novice, said: "He's taken his race very well and we're delighted with him. We are trying to keep as low-key as possible. We're well aware of what a formidable task he will be facing in a race like the Champion Hurdle, where experience counts for so much."

Cheltenham excitement was also in the air on a sunny afternoon at Kempton. Tim

Thomson Jones, having shown us a live Champion Hurdle candidate in Fildway at Wincanton on Thursday, revealed another string to his festival bow in Keep Talking, who outclassed his opponents in the F.T.C. Skip Tracing Novices' Chase.

"Declan Murphy said he was really impressed by the amount he's improved," the trainer said. "We're going to run him in the four-mile National Hunt Chase and hopefully Marcus Armitage will ride. We've decided against the Sun Alliance, which is going to be such a hot race. He should stay the trip all right because he's by Le Bayard out of a mare by Raise You Ten."

Jim Joel, Keep Talking's 97-year-old owner, will also be dreaming of festival glory



Joel: several strings to his Cheltenham bow

with Buck Willow and Norman Conquest. Joel was first successful at Cheltenham's big meeting in 1962 when Beau Normand won the Gloucester Hurdle.

Nicky Henderson and Richard Dunwoody continued in top form when interpreting the opening F.T.C. Corporate Recovery Novices' Hurdle. The jockey rode an opportunist race to beat the odds-on favourite, Mountain Kingdom, by suddenly stepping up the gallop approaching the home straight. "That was plan A," said the trainer, "but we had plans B and C ready as well."

Henderson holds one of his strongest ever hands at Cheltenham with Remittance Man, Mutare, New York Rainbow and Rustle all strongly fancied.

The trainer refused to be drawn about whether Dunwoody has a choice between riding Remittance Man and Waterloo Boy in the Queen Mother's Champion Chase. "We haven't even discussed the jockey question yet," he said firmly.

Wellington Brown, six-length winner of the Mathias Construction Materials Hunter Chase for Hilary Trigg, will not run in the Foxhunters Challenge Cup at Cheltenham.

"He doesn't like the course and doesn't stay three miles on it," Mrs Trigg said. "We'll go for the two-and-a-half-mile race at Ascot that he won last year."

Sanndila to set up Punchestown treble for Flynn

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

IN THE past 12 months, no rider has made a sharper move up the winners' list than Pat Flynn, aged 35, who has his stables in the shadow of the Comeragh mountains in Co Waterford.

Today's meeting at Punchestown is a vital one for Flynn in that his dreams of Cheltenham glory will be put to the test in three successive races — two of them televised — with Sanndila (1.10), Arcane (1.40) and Call Me Later (2.10) all going for trebles.

Sanndila is the shortest-priced of the Irish entries for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle and this former Aga Khan-owned winner on the Flat attempts to repeat a course and distance success when taking on stronger opposition in the Jureys Hotel Group Hurdle, including the smart Leopardstown winner Novello Allegro.

Arcane scamped home four-and-a-half lengths ahead of Biofabian at Thurles and can give the weighty to Lo Stregone in the final of the Irish National Hunt Novices' Hurdle. Lo Stregone was beaten a length at Fairyhouse by I've Topped It.

Call Me Later, Flynn's contender for the listed Kildare Day Chase, would prefer a longer trip and softer ground but this mare is such a fluent jumper that she may still be too good for Dermoree.

The feature race is the £14,000 Eddie Brennan Ltd National Trial, a handicap chase over an extended three-and-a-quarter miles. The 14 runners include three Irish hopefuls for the Mares Grand National, namely Lanigan's Wine, a previous winner of this race, Cloney Grange and Sharp Comment.

At the weights, though, they are likely to meet their match in the John Upton-trained Zeta's Lad. There was a £1,000 bet struck about him at 33-1 against Carvill's Hill at Leopardstown last Sunday but he was out of his depth and made a number of jumping mistakes as Carvill's Hill forced the pace.

His chance here is much better assessed on his previous attempt at Newbury when he failed by only half a length to give 17lb to Tom Troubadour. It is significant that Upton has stayed on for today's race.

GOING: GOOD TO YIELDING

1.40 IRISH NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(Final: £5,000; 2m 110yd) (9 runners)
1.124-2 CUCK DOCKBURN (C) (D. Kinsella) 6-11-10 D O'Connor
1.145-11 DEER BELL (M) (A. Moore) 6-11-10 T. Tait
1.152-21 CLOUTY GRANGE (C) (D. O'Connor) 6-11-10 M. J. Nash
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1.152-21 CLOUTY GRANGE (C) (D. O'Connor) 6-11-10 M. J. Nash

2.10 KILDARE DAY CHASE

(Listed race: £3,200; 2m 21) (4 runners)
1.025-11 DERMOREE (C) (N. Grant) 6-11-10 M. Flynn
1.125-21 ZETA'S LAD (C) (J. Upton) 6-11-10 M. Flynn
1.125-21 ZETA'S LAD (C) (J. Upton) 6-11-10 M. Flynn
1.125-21 ZETA'S LAD (C) (J. Upton) 6-11-10 M. Flynn

2.40 EDDIE BRENNAN LTD NATIONAL TRIAL EXTENDED

CHASE (Listed race: £12,000; 3m 21 110yd) (14 runners)
1.124-2 CUCK DOCKBURN (C) (D. Kinsella) 6-11-10 D O'Connor
1.145-11 DEER BELL (M) (A. Moore) 6-11-10 T. Tait
1.152-21 CLOUTY GRANGE (C) (D. O'Connor) 6-11-10 M. J. Nash
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1.152-21 CLOUTY GRANGE (C) (D. O'Connor) 6-11-10 M. J. Nash

MANDARIN

2.10 Cellini. 2.40 Mykindofmusic. 3.10 Dorset Duke. 3.45 Juvant. 4.20 Fennel. 4.50 Rose Why.
THUNDERER
2.10 Sri Captain. 2.40 Mykindofmusic. 3.10 Dorset Duke. 3.45 Carolee Clown. 4.20 Fennel. 4.50 Rose Why.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M; LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 NEEDLES HANDICAP (2,304; 6)

(9 runners)
1.024-2 RUSHANES 7 (C) T. Casey 5-10-10 F. Norton (S) 4
1.024-2 RUSHANES 7 (C) T. Casey 5-10-10 F. Norton (S) 4
1.024-2 RUSHANES 7 (C) T. Casey 5-10-10 F. Norton (S) 4
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1.024-2 RUSHANES 7 (C) T. Casey 5-10-10 F. Norton (S) 4
1.024-2 RUSHANES 7 (C) T. Casey 5-10-10 F. Norton (S) 4

2.40 HURST POINT CLAIMING STAKES

(2,168; 1m) (10)
1.024-2 RUSHANES 7 (C) T. Casey 5-10-10 F. Norton (S) 4
1.024-2 RUSHANES 7 (C) T. Casey 5-10-10 F. Norton (S) 4
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1.024-2 RUSHANES 7 (C) T. Casey 5-10-10 F. Norton (S) 4

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: 5 Wags, 5 winners from 14 runners, 35.7%
J. Hinchey, 3 from 6, 33.3%; W. Jones, 3 from 12, 25%
J. O'Connor, 3 from 14, 21.4%; G. Griffiths, 3 from 37, 8.1%
J. C. O'Brien, 1 from 25, 4.0%
J. O'Connor, 1 from 25, 4.0%
J. C. O'Brien, 1 from 25, 4.0%
J. O'Connor, 1 from 25, 4.0%
J. C. O'Brien, 1 from 25, 4.0%
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J. C. O'Brien, 1 from 25, 4.0%
J. O'Connor, 1 from 25, 4.0%
J. C. O'Brien, 1 from 25, 4.0%

Southwell

Going: good to firm
2.20 (2m 4f) 1. INTERPRETATION (C) (D. Kinsella) 6-11-10 D O'Connor
2.20 (2m 4f) 1. INTERPRETATION (C) (D. Kinsella) 6-11-10 D O'Connor
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Kempton Park

Going: good to firm
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Southwell

Going: standard
2.10 (7f) 1. Native Soil (W. R. Swann, 4-11-10)
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2.10 (7

The warning bells are ringing for a new look at British performances on ice and snow

Coaches needed to improve winter standards

La Plagne: The cowbells of Switzerland and Austria were echoing around the mountain tops here yesterday as their respective four-man bobsleigh teams, with the two of Germany and Canada 1, occupied the front seven places of the grid for the third and fourth runs today.

The Winter Olympic medal aspirations of Britain had evaporated, between dinner on Thursday and late breakfast on Friday, in a puff of comparative anonymity.

Driving errors by Mark Tout, who had a misty vision on the first run, left Britain's No. 1 sled lying tenth — albeit only 0.84sec behind the formidable Wolfgang Hoppe, of Germany, in first place — and Nick Phipps's No. 2 sled placed thirteenth. Tout will require extraordinary enterprise and good fortune today to overhaul seven highly honed rivals for a medal.

Wife O'Reilly, in the short track skating final on Thursday, suffered the legitimate arrows of his out-thrust sport. Tout, sadly and simply, under-performed. Britain is not, by Olympic standards, a natural winter sports nation. To succeed, it is necessary either to produce performers of exceptional talent, such as Curry, Cousins or Torvill and Dean, or to have competitors with maximum application who deliver under extreme pressure. This does not necessarily mean medals, as in the case of Martin Bell the last time, or Michael Dixon's biathlon twelfth place this week.

In this latter category, on the day, O'Reilly and Tout failed in differing ways, both technically: O'Reilly because of a fraction of a second of inattentiveness. Tout because, I suspect, his nerve briefly betrayed him.

We in the media should not be unduly critical, because we played our part, in genuine

DAVID WILSON

enthusiasm, in helping build public expectation. Neither O'Reilly nor Tout and his crew of George Farrell, Paul Field and Lenny Paul are any the less outstanding because they fell short of that expectation. This is an age of intense specialisation, not the good of amateur era of Nash and Dixon, bobsleigh gold medal-winners of 1964.

Of course, we British tend to be subjective and chauvinistic about sport. Most people are. That is part of the pleasure: sport panders to our subjective self-esteem. I vividly recall, when working for another newspaper, the elimination of England by Brazil in the World Cup football quarter-final of 1962; and, upon requesting from Santiago in Chile an allocation of 1,000 words for a review feature, receiving the cryptic response: "World Cup now dead — send 400".

The Times being a newspaper of international perspective, I shall continue filing for another day or two. When it comes to chauvinism, it has to be said, you cannot surpass the French. The newspaper and television coverage has almost exceeded that of ABC Television at the Los Angeles Summer Games for its introspection. The French, this does not necessarily mean medals, as in the case of Martin Bell the last time, or Michael Dixon's biathlon twelfth place this week.

Britain's significant contribution to the second half of the Winter Olympics has been, in the open opinion of many Europeans playing or working here, the victories of England on the rugby and football fields; a kind of Alka Seltzer for French intoxication. A delegation from Bar-

celona in the cafeteria of the main press centre was little short of holding a celebration of French failure the other day — in the most courteous manner, of course.

The British Olympic Association has some hard calculations to make before the debriefing with winter sports governing bodies at the end of March. On the one hand, while individual governing bodies look for more places in the team, reality suggests that between 10 and 15 per cent of the team of 56 did not deserve to be in Savoie.

"There were some disappointments, including at the lower level," Dick Palmer, chef de mission, said yesterday. "The level of competition is very high, and we must look again at standards required to achieve reasonable performances at the next Games at Lillehammer in two years' time."

The dilemma for Britain is that higher standards will not be achieved by a greater volume of sponsorship or training, but by better coaching, so that more expenditure should first be made on coaches rather than on competitors.

We cannot, I fear, expect too much from the minister of sport, who seems not to recognise that he is junior minister in one of the world's older democracies. His invitation to the press this week, which excluded those who have been bold enough to be rude about him — and boycotted by all the rest — has left Robert Atkins in a far worse light than any unsuccessful competitor. Mark Tout, however, was, as usual, prepared to meet everyone. He conceded that his own errors had contributed to the gap behind the leaders. Undaunted he said: "The winner in the two-man bobs came from tenth place overnight, so there's no reason why we shouldn't improve."



The leader on the board: Kristi Yamaguchi, of the United States, ahead after the first night, practises her routine for the women's free programme

Belmondo gives added boost to Italian hopes

Albertville: Stefania Belmondo yesterday set the scene for Alberto Tomba's attempt for further glory when she became the first Italian woman to win an Olympic cross-country skiing title.

Her fellow-countryman will try to complete an unprecedented Olympic double today when he defends his special slalom crown, having already become the first competitor to retain an Alpine skiing title.

Belmondo, who won the silver medal in the 10km cross country last Saturday, triumphed in the first women's Olympic 30km race. Aged 23, she set a tremendous pace that nobody could match, not even the Russian triple gold medal winner,

Lyubov Egorova, who finished second, 21.9sec behind. "I set off very hard and just kept going the best I could," Belmondo said.

Egorova's two silver medals — she was runner-up in the 5km — and three golds were the biggest individual haul at these Games. She can add to that tally at Lillehammer when she will be 27. The 30km world champion won the 10km and 15km individual races and shared in the relay success.

Wolfgang Hoppe is on course for a third Olympic bobsleigh title. The former east German, who won two golds in Sarajevo in 1984, led his four-man team into first place at the halfway stage (APF)

Ice hockey

(Albertville)

1988 winners: Soviet Union

SEMI-FINAL: United Team 5, United States 2. Ninth-place play-off: Norway 5, Switzerland 2.

Short-track speed skating

Men's 1,000 metres (Albertville)

SEMI-FINALS (first two in each heat qualify for semi-final; heat one: 1, Lee Joon-hee (Kor), 1:36.29; 2, J. J. Heijboer (Hol), 1:36.30; 3, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.31; 4, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.32; 5, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.33; 6, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.34; 7, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.35; 8, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.36; 9, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.37; 10, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.38; 11, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.39; 12, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.40; 13, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.41; 14, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.42; 15, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.43; 16, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.44; 17, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.45; 18, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.46; 19, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.47; 20, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.48; 21, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.49; 22, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.50; 23, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.51; 24, M. J. van der Werf (Hol), 1:36.52; 25, M. 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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22 1995
RUGBY LEAGUE
**Olders looking
vulnerable in
to St Helens**



strung Tottenham team manager has had to struggle on with the same modest squad that excelled last season, minus the incomparable Paul Gascoigne, the world's most famous invalid.

Fortunately for Tottenham, Shreeves is a dab hand with the Polyfills and he has been able to mask the deficiencies. Some astute tactical selections have been primarily responsible for the club reaching the advanced stages of two important cup competitions.

Such progress — not to mention the prospect of greater glory to come — in the circumstances, was ill-deserving of demands by the crowd for Shreeves's dismissal after last Sunday's loss to Crystal Palace, albeit their ninth at home this season.

Shreeves has been long

else, it would be the worst possible preparation for the second leg of the Rumbelows Cup semi-final the following Sunday against Nottingham Forest, the away day experts. Three days later, Tottenham play Feyenoord in Rotterdam in the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final.

The Tottenham side has, subconsciously at least, been picking and choosing its games. "My job is to motivate people for every game but I've always found that the best form of motivation is what I call the self-starter," Shreeves said. "I've dealt with lots of those type of players and they're the ones you want. Maybe we haven't had enough of them. Our lot of reserves has been a big disappointment to me."

"As far as the Arsenal name is concerned, that

boil as far as goals are concerned and we haven't scored from midfield all season. That has made things difficult since nearly all our defeats have been by the odd goal."

Outwardly, Shreeves remains unflustered while the storm gathers around him, though he confesses to feeling the pressure no less than he did in his first stint with

PAUL Gascoigne, the Tottenham and England midfielder, played his first football yesterday since damaging his knee in the FA Cup final last May.

side match at Tottenham's training ground. Peter Shreeves, the manager, said: "On today's evidence, he could be ready for a controlled [no tackling] 11-a-side training game in 21 to 28 days." Gascoigne is to have the surgical pins removed in two weeks' time.

Injury forces Jones onto Liverpool's casualty list

ENGLAND'S gain turned out to be Liverpool's loss yesterday when Rob Jones, the young right back who looked the answer to the country's ills, played at Wembley on Wednesday, pulled out of today's match against Norwich City at Carrow Road with an injury which also threatens to keep him out of the first leg of the UEFA Cup quarter-final against Genoa on March 4.

The injury crisis at Liverpool is approaching epidemic proportions, as Graeme Souness, the manager, reluctantly conceded yesterday. "The season is reaching a critical stage and unfortunately our injury problems are now worse than they have ever been," he said. "This is a club who in Souness's playing days refused to even acknowledge the existence of injury."

Jones's complaint has been described as a calf injury, though rumours persist that it could be an Achilles tendon injury, an ailment with which

Liverpool are all too familiar with this sort of thing. If it is, Jones would be out for a lot longer than the estimated three weeks.

He joins a casualty list which remains as extensive as it was at the beginning of the season, even if some of the names on it have changed. The list now includes Barnes, Whelan, Molby, Thomas, Tanner and, in all probability, Nicol. Too. Burrows is suspended today just for good measure.

If the injury is as bad as feared it could seriously interrupt Jones's international career, which had such a splendid start against the French. He has turned out to be a genuine success story since, even after the £300,000 paid by Crewe, Alexandra turned out to be merely a downpayment.

The fourth division club received an extra £150,000 after Jones completed 20 first-team appearances, and the overall cost is more likely to end up as £650,000 as the

young man graduates at a pace.

Scousers' refusal to surrender hope in the championship race smacks of Chester's last stand in the circumstances. The Indian braves, as represented by Manchester United, are a picture of health by comparison to Liverpool's weary troops. United have had a two-week respite from the usual grind of League duty and Alex Ferguson, their manager, expects to see some benefit against Crystal Palace at Old Trafford.

United have not scored more than one goal in a League game since hitting Oldham Athletic for six on Boxing Day, but it is the absence of Steve Bruce from defence which has been causing some disquiet throughout the side. United have not been built to score goals this season.

"The break has been a blessing," Ferguson said. "I expect to see a spring in our step now. We are in the home

straight with 15 games to go. They are all like cup finals — but our record in finals isn't bad.

Paul Parker, the versatile England defender, returns after a hamstring injury to play alongside Gary Pallister in central defence. It may be a position that he will need to concentrate on following the emergence of Jones.

□ The Leyton Orient winger, Greg Berry, ended speculation about his future last night when he signed a new two-year contract. Berry, aged 20, has been watched by Aston Villa, Tottenham, Queen's Park Rangers and Southampton in recent weeks.

□ Arsenal take a full-time side to Underhill next Saturday to play a testimonial for the Barnet manager, Barry Fry. Arsenal's scheduled home game has been postponed because Nottingham Forest play at Tottenham on the Sunday in the Rumbelows Cup semi-final return.

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

ALTHOUGH Richard Corsie, the holder, failed to produce the form that earned him his second world title last year, the 25-year-old Scot cleverly took advantage of some poor defence to defeat Jason Greenslade, a promising young Welshman, in the first round of the Midland Bank world indoor singles championship at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

After losing the first set, 2-7, Greenslade took the second, 7-5, and was warming to his task in the third when his progress was cruelly halted by an outrageous luke.

Corsie's off-target drive cannonned a short ball obliquely into the head, where it bounced off Greenslade's shot and gave the Scot a 5-2 advantage.

Corsie hung his head, but took the shot and perked up visibly. Greenslade, his confidence dented, scored on only two more ends, and snuke

Aston Vars V Oldham

By necessity, Oldham must play the Millers in the first round of the sale of Barrett to the opposition on Thursday; Fleming is the man most likely to profit from the deal. The Millers have already missed three games with back and ankle injuries, returns to the squad. Barrett was not signed until after the Christmas break. His colleagues and there is a doubt whether Yorke or Daley will be able to replace him. Oldham either, North and Stanton however, are fit after withdrawing from the Republic of Ireland squad in November. Kubicki is suspended.

Luton V Sheffield Unit

Tracey, the would-be Ireland international, returns to the United goal after a throat infection. Having missed the previous game, he is set to join Luton on a permanent basis which ought to give the Bedfordshire club heart in its first struggle. The £300,000 fee has been agreed with Nottingham Forest. Teller has not recovered from a knee injury sustained in the previous game. What we want is Christmas to come all over again — another three wins, ...

Parker returns V St Paulace

Parker returns for United but is not in attack where the League leaders need more input. The club has lost more than one goal in their last seven league games. Nevertheless, Alex Ferguson, the manager, has ruled out the return of either Giggs or Charnickish. Young is

boosted by Palace with a bantering injury and Southgate stands by. Shaw is fit again after a five-month lay-off.

Norwich v Liverpool
Liverpool's injury problems seem never-ending. Now Jones, who has been a useful English debutant, is ruled out with a calf strain and joins a growing injury list. The replacements include Ryan, Keane who starts his first league game, and Hutchinson, a midfield player who has been out of the reserves in midweek. Norwich are unchanged as well they might be after over a barren spell since losing to North County in the FA Cup.

Notdm Forest v Chelsea
Forest intend to set about improving their league position which has deteriorated due to their heavy involvement in cup games. Forest, in line with those of Westbury firm will be unchanged even though Charles has recovered from injury. Forest will rely on the Chelsea, almost certainly without Townsend, Jones and Le Saux, who will have to avoid a similarly humbling defeat to last season's 7-1 reverse.

QPR v Notts County
Ferdinand, the exciting young Rangers' striker, attempts to put his season back on the rails after a long lay-off from a jaw, knee and ankle injuries. In the continued absence of Thompson and Bailey, his return is vital to a team without a win in six games. Draper is likely to

back down following a family disagreement while Lindoy, a summer signing from Exeter, can establish himself in the County side. The other absentee, who has nuptured knee tendons, Turner is suspended.

Sheff Wed v West Ham

All eyes on Wednesday's powers of resilience, it would help keep the Hammers' hopes of a top six finish - a 7-1 drubbing at Arsenal if Pearson and Harkes, who both had the good fortune to miss that game through suspension and foot injuries, respectively. Hyde hopes to be able to play with a plaster cast on an injured hand.

Sheff Wed v Nottm Forest

Unchanged despite Bishop's involvement in a reserve game in midweek after injury.

Southampton v Coventry

The need for Southampton to win aside all thoughts of a top six finish cannot be too important game for both sides. Adams is expected to return to the former club because of a thigh strain which will keep him for three weeks.

Sheff Wed v Huddersfield

McHurlock is available after injury. The Huddersfield defence returns to the squad after breaking a toe but not to the team.

Sheff Wed v Nottm Forest

McHurlock is expected to have faith after clean sheets against Crystal Palace and Liverpool.

Tottenham v Arsenal

Mobbott, the Tottenham captain and a diabetic, has recovered after collapsing in midweek from an insulin overdose. Also in the squad is Barmby, an England

youth international, who has scored seven goals in ten games for the youth team. Interest in Arsenal selection centres around whether or not Campbell, who fit the blue touch paper to last week's 7-1 thrashing of Sheffield Wednesday, plays.

Wimbledon vs Man City
Wimbledon's recent revival which has brought them four points from the last two games could be interrupted by the arrival of Phil Neal. Injured his arms playing for the Republic in midweek and is doubtful.

Fitzgerald stands by to replace him in the full-back slot for left back Heath, who scored his first goal in 17 months after coming on as a substitute in the 7-1 thrashing. He is likely replacement for Hughes, rested after 28 consecutive appearances.

Tomorrow
Everton v Leeds
Everton hog the cameras again this week as they attempt to prevent Leeds from regaining the first division leadership while at the same time doing their own thing. Because a mid of goal Johnston has made good progress with his wrist injury and is expected to play, the club's fitness test on a back injury, Cantona, the French international forward, is set to start for the first time. The Leeds who have Speed and Starfield fit, Hodge has suffered a recurrence of calf trouble and is under observation at the end of the season.

□ *Compiled by Clive White.*

Plying the power: Ma German, Andrea Glas European junior W

Fine follo

Stuttgart: Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl have each been fined \$1,000 by the ATP Tour for outbursts during their second-round defeats in the Eurocard Classic here. Becker lost 6-3, 6-4 to Jan Siemierink, of The Netherlands, and Lendl was beaten 7-6, 5-7, 6-1 by Aleksandr Volkov, of Russia.

"In Becker's case he swore in German at a German linesman and the linesman



by Wainwright, of Britain, but lost 6-4, 6-4 as her team later Cup at the Windmill H

TENNIS

s defeat f

reported him to the umpire, while Lendl said offending words to the umpire in his match," the ATP supervisor, Ed Hardisty, said.

Goran Ivanisevic, the seventh seed, and John McEnroe had previously been fined \$500 and \$450, Ivanisevic for verbal abuse during a second-round match against Olivier Delatire, of France, and McEnroe for breaking his

drives hard against the
was topped 4-0 in the
centre, East Sussex

or Becker

acket during his defeat by
the eighth seed, Karel
Novacek, of Czechoslovakia.
Happily for the sponsor,
Jim Courier and Stefan
Edberg, the top two seeds,
both won through to the
quarter-finals.

Courier, the world No. 1,
outlasted Richard Krajicek
of The Netherlands, by 6-3,
6-6, 6-3, and Edberg swept
past the Austrian, Alex
Antonitsch, 6-1, 6-2. (AP)

"I must tighten my game," he said. "I dropped a big nut in every set. You can get away with that in the traditional 21-up situation, but not in this. I made mistakes that can mean a real death."

"Halfway through the second round, I really got it," he said. "I could have been better," Greenslade added, "but I played too many loose ends, and only have myself to blame for my defeat."

Corsie said Greenslade had given him "a good work-out" and he was glad to have had such a tough opening match. "But I know I'll have to raise my game if I'm to hold on to the title."

In the pairs, Ian McClure of Ireland, who at 18 is the second youngest competitor in the championships, partnered Steve Adamson to shock five-time victory over England's Gary Smith and Anthony Thomson, who had been seeded fourth.

RESULTS: Singles: First round: In Corsie (72) 7-5, 7-6; Thomson (72) 7-5, 7-6; Pairs: First round: Mc Briggs and W. Thomson (Eng) 6-1; N. Brown and A. Welch (Ire) 7-6, 7-1; J. Schuchman and R. Morrison (Aus) 6-2; D. Gaulty Jr. and R. McCallum (Eng) 7-5, 4-7, 7-5, 7-5; J. Schuchman and R. Morrison (Aus) 7-5, 7-6; J. Lawson (NZ) 7-2, 7-6; 7-2, 7-6; A. Thomson (Eng) 11-7, 7-5, 7-2, 7-6, 7-6.

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Happily for the sponsor, Jim Courier and Stefan Edberg, the top two seeds, both won through to the quarter-finals.

Courier, the world No. 1, ousted Richard Krajicek of The Netherlands, by 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, and Edberg swept past the Austrian, Ale Antonicich, 6-1, 6-2. (AP)

Kafirin Krabbe's lawyer yesterday lodged an appeal against the suspension of the world 100 and 200 metres champion, saying he would produce new scientific evidence to help clear her name.

Reinhard Rauball said Krabbe still intended to compete at the Barcelona Olympics and would start the outdoor season by running in an international event in her home town, Neubrandenburg, on May 27. He sent formal notice of appeal on behalf of Krabbe and her fellow athletes, Grit Breuer and Silke Möller, to the legal committee of the German athletics federation.

Additional event
Golf: A new European Tour event, the Roma Masters, which will carry prize-money of £225,000, was announced yesterday. It will be played between April 2 and 5.
 □ Chris Moody, of England, trails Peter Fowler, of Australia, by five strokes after the second round of the New Zealand Open.

Stich undone
Tennis: Michael Stich, the Wimbledon champion, continued his poor run of form when he lost to Amos Mansdorf, of Israel, 7-6, 7-5 in the third round of the United States professional indoor tournament.

Winning formula
Yachting: John Bertrand, of the United States, swept to an easy win in Stars & Stripes on the first day of the Formula One world grand prix off Fremantle, western Australia.

Oxford tipped
Real tennis: Oxford start as favourites for the first women's University match at Oxford today.

Profits fall
Cricket: Northamptonshire made a profit of £18,464 last season, more than £55,000 down on the previous year.

lends: Thomas Cup: Preliminary round: Group W: CIS 5, Iceland 0, Sweden 5, Iran 0, Group X: Scotland 3, Finland 2, Group Y: Netherlands 3, Norway 1; 1: England 4, Finland 1
Group V: Netherlands 3, United States 2; 2: Canada 4, Czechoslovakia 1, Poland 1, Germany 4, United States 1; 3: Group Z: Denmark 5, Austria 0, Canada 4, Czechoslovakia 1, Switzerland 0; 4: Canada 4, Austria 1
Upper Cup: Preliminary round: Group W: Scotland 3, Denmark 5, Norway 1, Hungary 0, Group X: Netherlands 3, France 0, Germany 4, Bulgaria 1, Netherlands 5, Bulgaria 0, Germany 5, Finland 0, Group Y: Netherlands 3, France 0, Canada 4, Czechoslovakia 1, Group Z: CIS 4, Ireland 1; Sweden 5, South Africa 0, THONG KONG 3, Wales 2, qualification round: Thomas Cup: Group A: Taiwan 3, Hong Kong 2, Indonesia 5, Japan 0, Group B: India 5, New Zealand 0, South Korea 4, 1, Thailand 0, Group C: Japan 4, South Korea 3, Taiwan 2, Indonesia 4, Japan 1, Group D: South Korea 5, Australia 0, THONG KONG 3, Indonesia 1, Indonesia v Thailand, South Korea v Japan

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final series:
Pool A: Barcelona 88, Macabici Eder 88;
Cibola 79, Zengab 88, Urtizola 84;
Kalel 70, Lander 100, Phraspa 84 (19 9);
Pool B: Bayer Leverkusen 88, Jovantut
Sedolans (56) 84; Estuadriens (Medir) 75,
Purtizab Benedit 72, Mechielen (Bier) 75,
Don Heider (Nethi) 84; Phraspa Nethi 117,
Arz Balcera 88.

Pool A

| | P | W | L | F | AFT |
|-----------|----|----|----|------|---------|
| Barcelona | 13 | 10 | 3 | 1130 | 1047 23 |
| Macabici | 13 | 10 | 3 | 1230 | 1171 23 |
| Cibola | 13 | 9 | 4 | 1146 | 1087 22 |
| Zengab | 13 | 9 | 4 | 1177 | 1115 22 |
| Domercia | 13 | 8 | 5 | 1154 | 1105 21 |
| Urtizola | 13 | 8 | 5 | 1182 | 1079 17 |
| Kalel | 13 | 2 | 11 | 1088 | 1252 16 |
| Caserta | 13 | 2 | 11 | 1103 | 1231 16 |

CRICKET

AUCLAND: World Cup warm-up match (80 overs); Australia 239-7 (R G Hughes 60; S Warne 3-1), New Zealand 184-8 (S Pollock 4-1).
Auckland 189-5 (S Pollock 76); Australia won by 82 runs.
TONGA: 50 OVERS D: Adelaide; Victoria 338-9 (J V Latham 112, S P O'Donnell 87 not out) v South Africa 223-8 (Gardner 56 not out).
CHARLES STANLEY: Reduced by rain to 23 overs-a-side; Trinidad and Tobago 127 (23 overs); Leeward Islands 124 (22-4 overs); Trinidad and Tobago meet Barbados in final.

CYCLING

BENICASSIM, Spain: Tour de Valpatria: Fourth stage (218km): 1, S Kelly (Ire, Lotus); 2m Oliver (Ger); 3, S Salvador (Fra, Peugeot); 4, M C Tena (Esp, Movistar).
Mouscron (Bel, Lotto); 5, M de Castero (Bel, Lotto).

time. Overall standings: 1. Museuun, 13:22:50; 2. Salvador, 3. J. Jalsbirt (Fr. Once); 4. J. Tolen (Neth, PDM); 5. Kathy; 6. J. Moritosa (Sp, S Araya), all same time.

FOOTBALL

HARP LAGER FAI CUP: First round report: Dundalk 1, Killycenny City 0 (ast).

GERMAN LEAGUE: Bochum 0, Bayern Munich 5.

UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: N Ireland 0, Denmark 1 (at Ballymore).

GOLF

LA JOLLA, California: Sunk Invitational. First-round leaders (US

Choi, Yoon So 75 (S Korea) 74, 70; D Cruz (Phil) 70, 75; C Endres (Aus) 71, 73
 PAPA/ARABIAN/AFRICAN/ASIAN/OPERT
 Second-round results: 1352 P Fowler (Aus), 68, 64; 1353 G Kenny (Aus), 95, 85, 85; 1354 J. Smith (Aus), 85, 85, 85; 1355 D. G. 1356 J. Backwell (Aus), 69, 69; 1357 C Owen (NZL), 65, 70; P Moloney (Aus), 70, 59; 1358 G. Grech (Aus), 74, 55; R Davis (Aus), 70, 59
 NEWS/BRACEY
 Havel: Hawaiian women's event: First-round results: (US) 1359 J. Smith (Aus), 85, 85, 85; 1360 M. Pals (Fr), L. Naumann (Swe), T. Green, 1361 J. Whitt, K. Ridsdale, C. Spence, 1362 M. R. Sorenson, M. Redman, J. Pascoe, M. McCann, C. Kage, S. Furling, M. Foust, M. Ferguson, D. Cogg, M. Biersdorf

HOCKEY
 KARACHI: Champs Trophy: Australia 6, Netherlands 3; Pakistan 6, France 6

ICE HOCKEY
 INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit Red Wings 3, Toronto Maple Leafs 2, New York Islanders 6, New Jersey Devils 6, Philadelphia Flyers 4, Pittsburgh Penguins 4

SQUASH RACKETS

CARDIFF: Leukas Welsh Classic: Men: Second round: D Harris (Eng), 15-8, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8; Norman (Nz), 11-15, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8; C Drumer (Aus), 15-7, 15-8, 15-8, 15-10, 15-10; J. Williams (Wales), 15-8, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8; Jackson (Scot), 15-13, 15-8, 15-15, 15-13, 15-13; Robertson (Aus) & A Davies (Wales), 15-8, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8; J. F. Fitz-Gerald (Aus) & B Irving (Aus), 15-10, 15-10, 15-15, 15-7, 15-11; S. Davey (Nz) & S. Bradley (Aus), 15-8, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8, 15-8; J. Williams (Eng) & L. Soutter (Eng), 15-14, 15-8, 15-4, S. Homes (Eng) & B. Hooper-Dunlop (Neth), 15-9, 15-8, 15-5

[illegible][illegible]

THE fourteenth Champions trophy tournament turned into a scoring carnival here yesterday with 15 goals in two matches. Australia romped to 6-3 victory over the World Cup holders, Netherlands, and Pakistan, spurred by an enthusiastic home crowd, whereas the French 6-0.

Whereas Pakistan were too rust and skilful for the French, who are learning fast, Australia's task was made all the easier by some incredible defensive lapses by the Dutch.

The worst error was made by the deep defender, Cruick, who delayed his clearance long enough to enable Davies

Mark Hager had given the Australians the lead in the ninth minute and when Williams converted a short corner a minute before the interval, Australia were comfortably launched. Despite a goal by Bovelander from a short corner early in the second half, goals by Hager and Davies put Australia 5-1 ahead. Weterings and

ebbins scored to briefly
the game into a con-
sult, but Hager netted his
third in the 58th minute.

France, undaunted by Pa-
istan's reputation, launched
several attacks, led generally
by their captain, Cellier, but
the Pakistan machine was set
in motion in the seventeenth
minute by Shahbaz Ahmed,
who set up two chances for
Fasim Feroze to score.

In between, Khalid Bashir
inverted a short corner.
Hussaid Hussain scored the
fourth goal in the 56th
minute, Khalid Bashir the
fifth from a short corner and
Amr Ibrahim the sixth.

Surbiton beat Forbury
tomorrow at Skelmersdale
they will win the second divi-
sion title in the Pizza Express
National League and become
the first of two clubs eligible
to play in the first division
next season. Surbiton's hopes
were when they beat Warring-
ton 6-3 last week and they are
expecting Molloy to add a few
more goals to the four he
scored then.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1992

Botham charged with vital role as India bank on youth for success in the cricket World Cup

England risk opening gambit

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN PERTH

WHEN Ian Botham took his first steps into international cricket, with all the timidity of a bull in a bad mood, Vinod Kambli was a boy aged four in the backstreets of Bombay. On the eve of cricket's fifth World Cup, need and circumstance threw this improbable pair together.

The cameras rolled relentlessly in Perth yesterday, and they were invariably pointed at the grizzled veteran of 100 Tests and as many one-day internationals. Botham has had his way and will open the England innings when the World Cup stages its first floodlit match here today.

While England's glamorous selection commanded the attention, however, India were contemplating a strategy for the longer term. Kambli, just 19 and with only three one-day games in Sharjah for top-grade experience, was nominated as the likely new opening partner for Kris Srikkanth in today's historic game.

India, like England, would name only a squad of 12 last night. Kambli contesting the final place with the accomplished but out-of-form Manjrekar. One of them would open, with Shastri moving down the order as a mobile weapon against Eng-



land's slow bowling. If Kambli won the vote, as the Indian camp believed he would, the team's new generation was to gain an exciting addition.

Everyone in cricket is now fully acquainted with the extraordinary talent of Sachin Tendulkar. Some are aware that his first indelible impression on the Indian game was made four years ago when he and a schoolmate aged 14 shared a partnership of 664, both boys scoring triple centuries. Not many would know that his ally that day, and his closest friend ever since, was Kambli.

They grew up together, were coached and cajoled by the same old wise mentor in Ramakant Achrekar, and now they stand together at the outset of this World Cup, scarcely able to believe that they are suddenly part of it.

Tendulkar has already demonstrated a maturity way beyond his years. He has been carrying the frail Indian batting around Australia all winter and, for a teenager, he has already imposed a re-

markable degree of cricket thinking on a sometimes rudderless side.

Off the field, he smiles boyishly behind his sunglasses, listens to Phil Collins on his personal stereo and looks thoroughly westernised. He says little, however, unless in the company of Kambli. Then, together, they blossom, as India doubtless hope and believe they will on the field in the coming weeks.

It is a sobering fact that neither can recall much of the day when India, with two of today's players in the side, won the World Cup in 1983. It is not surprising because neither, in fact, had even begun to play cricket by then.

Graham Gooch missed that World Cup for different reasons. He was serving a suspension for touring South Africa and had mentally resigned himself to never again playing overseas for England. But the old handdog returned for the 1987 World Cup and enjoyed it so much he was able to persuade himself to extend his touring career one more time for this year's competition. Today's international, fittingly, is his 100th.

"It is a very exciting tournament," he said yesterday. "You get a great buzz from the World Cup." Asked how much it would mean personally to win the competition, he grinned sheepishly and complained: "You know I'm not very good at putting things like that into words."

"But it is important and it would be a great thing for me, if not quite at the end then near the end of my time. I wouldn't mind playing in the next World Cup but I think they would have to make a new rule allowing wheel-chairs."

England's final selection for today was unlikely to be difficult on the ground where the highest score in any limited overs match this winter is a mere 209. Gladstone Small and Richard Illingworth, both bowlers short of match practice, were expected to join the injured Allan Lamb in waiting for another day.

Lamb continues to make rapid progress in recovering from his hamstring tear but the danger now is that he will feel encouraged to start back too soon.

"I am desperate to play against West Indies on Thursday," he said yesterday, "but the advice is that I would be better to give it a few more days. It is hard to let myself back but I accept it is better to miss two games than to risk missing the rest of the competition."



Net gain: Botham holds nothing back as he prepares for today's game

Imran's solution is a softer ball

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAKISTAN are again using tennis balls during practice to help their batsmen prepare for the faster Australian pitches in the World Cup.

The Pakistan cricket manager, Intikhab Alam, said that the captain, Imran Khan, regularly took his batsmen into hotel car parks and threw tennis balls at them from about half the length of a pitch.

"We used tennis balls when we went to the West Indies in 1988 to help the players get used to the bounce," Intikhab said. Pakistan play West Indies at Melbourne tomorrow in their opening match of the tournament.

Geoff Marsh made a solid 61 and Allan Border and Steve Waugh both scored half-centuries as Australia gained a 62-run win over the Auckland provincial team in a final World Cup warm-up

match. Australia made 250 for seven in 50 overs and then restricted Auckland to 188 for five in tricky, windy conditions.

Bowling into the wind proved difficult because it was so hard to maintain balance, while batsmen had trouble when the wind caused the ball to waver on the back-lift.

Marsh played a typically stern innings but the Australian accelerated so emphatically that they scored 97 runs from the last ten overs of their innings.

Auckland never got into the hunt, despite some good batting from Simon Peterson (67), Justin Vaughan (40) and Adam Parore (35 not out). While Bruce Reid and Mike Whitney were battling away into the gale, Craig McDermott bowled ten quick overs downwind, finishing with two for 16.

Cantona is out to master Keown

BY IAN ROSS

ALTHOUGH Eric Cantona's belief in his own abilities stretches far beyond the parameters of normal self-confidence, his immediate future within English football may well be decided tomorrow when Leeds United meet Everton at Goodison Park.

Cantona, who was lured to Elland Road three weeks ago after refusing the offer of an extended trial at Sheffield Wednesday, is expected to take his place in a televised League game of obvious significance, fully aware that an unproductive performance could signal a slump in his fortunes. Given Cantona's volatile nature, he would not readily accept such a retrograde step.

With Chapman, the prolific goalscorer he was signed to replace, likely to be available for next weekend's game against Luton Town after recovering from a fractured arm, Cantona must make a healthy contribution on Merseyside if he is to be regarded as something other than a gifted and expensive understudy.

Ironically, the player who is likely to be charged with the responsibility for suppressing Cantona's natural flair tomorrow is Keown, the Everton centre back who proved himself to be equal to just such a task at Wembley on Wednesday night when the two men fought out a fascinating personal duel during the course of the England-France friendly international.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, attended the game to monitor the progress of his latest acquisition, and

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Man Utd | 27 | 18 | 9 | 2 | 48 | 21 | 57 |
| Leeds Utd | 28 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 52 | 23 | 56 |
| Sheff Wed | 28 | 12 | 12 | 4 | 38 | 24 | 48 |
| Liverpool | 28 | 12 | 12 | 4 | 38 | 24 | 48 |
| Sheff Wed | 28 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 44 | 40 | 47 |
| Arsenal | 29 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 50 | 34 | 43 |
| Chelsea | 29 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 38 | 41 | 40 |
| Blackburn | 29 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 39 | 44 | 39 |
| Aston Villa | 29 | 11 | 5 | 12 | 34 | 33 | 38 |
| Oldham | 29 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 45 | 38 | 37 |

yesterday, with typical Yorkshire bluntness, he did not disguise his acute disappointment. "Good football outside of the penalty area is all well and good but if you are a striker you have to hit the opposition where it hurts," he said.

"I was disappointed that Eric did not give Chris Woods more to do in terms of saving shots. The confrontation between Eric and Keown was interesting, to say the least."

Leeds, who have been inactive — apart from two exhibitions — since experiencing League defeat for only the second time this season at Oldham Athletic a fortnight ago, trail Manchester United by a point at the top of the first division.

They would welcome an Everton performance as inept as the one that contributed to their 4-1 Rumblovs Cup defeat two months ago at the same venue.

Leeds expect to have Speed available even though he sustained a painful knee injury while playing for Wales against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on Wednesday.

Johnston, the Everton forward, is also likely to figure even though he has not yet recovered from a long-standing wrist injury.

ITV aims to keep live coverage

BY PETER BALL

ITV is still trying to retain its exclusive hold on live football telecasts. It has offered the Premier League £18 million a year for a four-year contract, which would give it exclusive rights to live transmission.

The insistence on live broadcasts is significant. It means that the Premier League's concurrent negotiations with the BBC for the return of *Match of the Day* would not be affected, while shutting out ITV's commercial rival BSkyB, which is interested in showing live Premier League matches.

The Premier League is believed to be keen to see *Match of the Day* come back. It would resume the old format, with a 50-minute programme on a Saturday evening, probably in the old 10pm slot, showing highlights of two of the afternoon's matches.

Running from August to May, it would give the Premier League a highly desirable shop window and a continuity for viewers which

the more sporadic nature of the live Sunday match does not offer.

Unlike the present ITV contract, Rumblovs Cup matches are not covered by the bid from the commercial channel. ITV would undoubtedly want to bid for those rights, which are held by the Football League, but it is possible that the League would prefer to sell a larger package, including some Football League matches and the ZDS Cup competition, to BSkyB.

The £18 million offer probably is not the final word. At the very least, the Premier League clubs are likely to demand that the figure is index-linked, a step that increased the value of the existing contract from its original £11 million to more than £13 million this season.

But there are suggestions that the Premier League should negotiate only a one-year holding contract. Then, when the FA's contracts with BSkyB and the BBC expire in a year's time, the two bodies can put everything on the table in a joint negotiation.

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

A people born to run

Nairobi

WHEN it comes to cross-country running, Kenya makes the MacLaren Formula One team look vulnerable and the West Indies cricket team of the Eighties look fragile. This is the land of remorseless excellence; unparalleled strength in depth; imperturbable and unbeatable. No wonder they are resented. No wonder there are people involved in the international circuit who believe that life would be easier if there were fewer brilliant Kenyans at the place. Not the runners — it is the promoters who worry.

Today we have the first Nairobi International race, and here, at least, nobody is trying to restrict the number of Kenyan athletes taking part. Some of the other promoters of the 14-race IAAF cross-country challenge have been concerned

that the inevitability of Kenyan success is having a bad effect, especially where the fickle television audiences of Europe are concerned. Where, they ask, is the appeal of this endless series of enigmatic strangers who make no brash statements, and who live a life no European can comprehend? In Belfast, the Kenyan invitations to the men's event were restricted to three. You've guessed it: Kenya finished one, two and three.

From thin air

THE favourite for the men's race here tomorrow is Paul Tergat. Who he? I hear you ask. Tergat is the perfect example of the Kenyan athlete who leaps from nowhere to the pinnacle of athletics in one — or no more than two — bounds. After a couple of wins in provincial races he

was third in the immensely strong armed forces race. Last Saturday, he demolished the field as he won the Kenyan national championship — the toughest national championship in the world. Yesterday he was nowhere, today he must be in the world's top five, by tomorrow he could be better than that. Yet he has never left the country. Nobody outside Kenya athletics really knows who he is. And you know what? There are plenty more, where he came from.

Word puzzle

THE *Kenyan Times*, unlike this paper, alas, covers one of the grandest sports of them all — Scrabble. George Wazome, I read, with delight, was recently elected chairman of the Kenya Amateur Scrabble Association, replacing Robert Muli. Scrabble is, of course, one of the most "testing" games known to mankind. I once played it for blood, but no longer. The muscles can still perform at a high level, but it is the competitive nerve that goes.

The big leap

THE future for ski jumping is with short, black inner-city kids of the United States. So says Howard Peterson, chief executive officer of the US ski team. "We are combing the schools now," he said.

The federation is building a jumping hill in Salt Lake City, of all places, at a cost of \$12 million. "We want kids with short parents who have no prospects for college basketball," Peterson said; adding: "Anyone heavier than 130lb just won't go very far."

Meanwhile, Britain still hopes to build an artificial ski jump in this country. There are possibilities to be investigated in Sheffield and Edinburgh.

Winters' tale

CAN refereeing damage your health? If so, how much? The GM Vauxhall Conference has begun a fascinating experiment to test the physical demands made on referees during a match. The health and science department of Liverpool University wants to monitor blood pressure and heart rate to assess "the effect on the body of various refereeing decisions". A pity they didn't wire up the rugby ref in the England-France game last weekend.

The first subject was Geoff Winters, who was refereeing the recent match between Northwich Victoria and Wycombe Wanderers. But alas, at half-time Winters could take no more. He had

done a calf muscle. Refereeing is even tougher than the men of Liverpool University had believed.

Point duty

THIS column's heart bleeds for Giuseppe Orlando, the sensitive goalscorer. He is suffering from stress because he scores too many goals. Last weekend, playing for his club, Paganese, against Sarno in the semi-professional Championship of Excellence league in Italy, he fainted at half-time and was substituted.

He suffers from disturbance, hypertension and anxiety. He cannot sleep at night. When he does, he gets nightmares. His 16 goals in 20 games have put Paganese on top of the league — but poor Giuseppe has had enough. He wants to give up. "I need to have a tranquil occupation," he said.

He now intends to become a traffic policeman.

Government to support Olympic bid

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE prime minister will announce next week that the government will give financial backing to Manchester's attempt to stage the 2000 Olympic Games, so hugely increasing the chances of Britain staging the event for the first time since 1948.

The government will also give its full administrative support, ensuring Manchester's bid is a genuinely British bid. This is necessary if the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is to vote, in September 1993, to give the Games to Manchester.

The exact sum, which John Major will announce next Wednesday, has yet to be settled, although the commitment will be the greatest single amount of money given to British sport. However, the government is unlikely to immediately hand over £350 million, requested by Manchester. This would be used to develop a 150-acre site in east Manchester, where there are plans for the building of an 80,000-seat main stadium and a velodrome, and also a gymnastics arena in the city centre.

Major and other government ministers, including Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, are more likely to tell the Manchester bid committee, at a meeting at 10 Downing Street, that there will be a programmed package of support. This would spread over several years, include providing money through the urban development grant, and be finally conditional on Manchester securing the Games next year from the opposition of cities such as Sydney, Brasilia, Peking and Berlin.

The government is expected to give a "starter-package" of financial support, which would enable the private sector to get involved in the leisure and entertainment complex. This would be built alongside the velodrome and

the main stadium, which it is hoped that Manchester City football club would make its home ground.

Last December, the government provided £2 million to conduct a detailed feasibility study. This has now been completed by Whitehall officials, the Manchester bid committee and independent agencies and sent to the prime minister.

Although Major is well-known as a sports enthusiast, more cogent reasons for giving the money are the regeneration of the region, the employment opportunities and the boost to national morale, if Manchester were to secure the Games. In addition, the government also knows that there are massive benefits in trade, commerce and prestige.

The announcement on Wednesday would also do the Conservative party's standing no harm in the run-up to the general election.

The Treasury, which has been particularly worried that the costs could escalate and if Manchester were awarded the Games, then the government might be committed to finding extra revenue.

There are 14 sites already existing in the North-West for the Games but Manchester has already agreed to the British Olympic Association's conditions that it will have started work on three more by September 1993. This is partly to impress the IOC of the seriousness of Manchester's determination, after losing the 1996 Games to Atlanta, and partly to provide much-needed facilities in the area.

The biggest problems that Manchester face in staging the Games are to find a suitable location, the necessary money and the planning permission for building the Olympic village.

British stock high on black market

FROM DAVID POWELL IN MÉRIBEL

THERE is more than one Tour still making the effort to keep Britain's name from sliding off the map at these Winter Games. They are the ones who are not so much interested in racing bobs as making a few.

The British ticket touts are of gold medal stock. "The Olympics are made for me," said one, who gave his name as Mark Murphy.

Far removed from their summer jobs at Wimbledon they may be, but winter work here provides full employment. Varied, too. There was a business trip to Paris for the rugby last weekend.

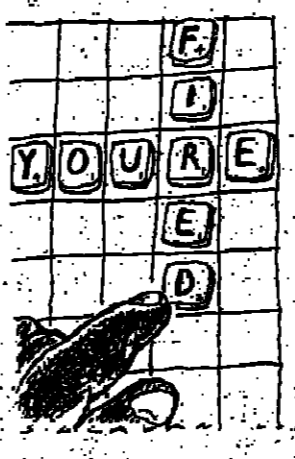
The American and French provide good competition and, since each country can enter as many men as it likes, one does not have to walk far down the main street here to get a range of quotes.

For a £50 ticket for tomorrow's ice hockey final, I was asked to pay £200. This was

before the semi-finals. A tout taking a gamble. He knew he could sell it for more if the United States reached the final.

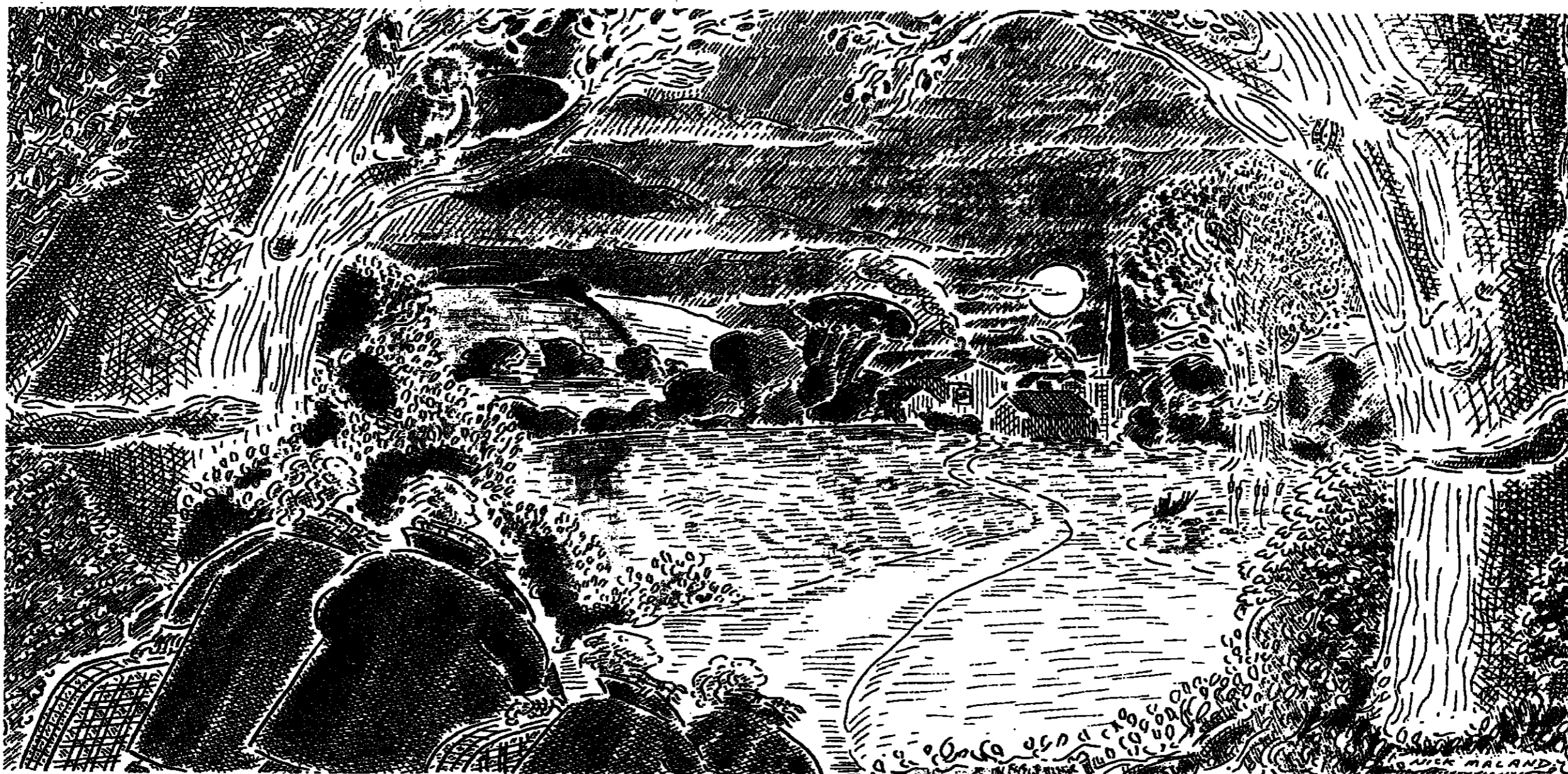
Just as the American public is prepared to pay more, so are its touts. Murphy is an entrepreneur among them, running an agency in Stockholm and supplying their needs. For preliminary matches, he claimed to have sold £30 tickets and £60 to the British. "It is not a racial thing, I just see the Brits more often," he said. "These guys will have tried to sell them for £100."

Business started on thin ice but now it is snowballing. "The police took 25 off me and made me sell them at face value," Murphy said. "I was thinking it would take four days to break even but it took seven." He always knew, though, that the second half of the run would be faster.



WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1992



Country-dweller Libby Purves explains why, unlike Neil Lyndon last week, she relishes the summer invasion of urban visitors

Townies welcome

Poor old Londoners. Poor Mancunians, Brummies and other city-dwellers: exhausted amid the exhaust fumes, dreaming innocently of their summer idyll in the countryside.

Last week in this space Neil Lyndon (a fairly recent but alarmingly keen countryman) made it clear to the city that they are not welcome. They are intruders, plunderers, rapists of his solitude, sanctimonious and incomprehending outsiders who don't know what the countryside is for. Worst of all, they are "dead batteries" who have the nerve to seek a brief seasonal recharging from the marshes and the sea and the wide East Anglian skies. The writer harshly assured the visitors that (unless they are punks, bird-watchers or sportsmen) "you may count on one certainty: you won't find friends here".

Cue for the rest of us, fresh from the village hall production of *Alf Baba*, to jump up and down and shout "Oh yes you will". You'll find heaps of friends. Or, at least, tolerant locals, quite pleased to have the summer season come round again with carnivals and regattas, fairs and frolics and festivals, ice-cream vans and the Great Walberswick Crabbing Contest. These things are ours all right, but simply supported with money and appreciation by the pale, chic visitors from the city. As my little brother used to say years ago, when he toddled down our suddenly festive village street to the unnaturally crowded beach: "Look Mum! Holidaymakers! I want to be a holidaymaker!" They are like swallows. They make the summer. When we first moved back here, I admit that I used to feel a little apprehensive of the summer invasion. In winter solitude, the landscape does indeed give something different and infinitely precious to those who love it. Or even to those who happen to be stuck with it. There are certain lighting effects, of golden trees against slate-grey sky, or reed-beds lit by a single ray of sunset after weeks of chill fog, which strike right into the soul. Country life, too, is cosier in winter: I was on the Ile d'Ouessant once talking about this to the priest, and he said simply: "We welcome visitors, they bring gaiety. But in winter it is best because we are *entire nous*."

There is a lot to be said for the old-fashioned (and not quite dead) pursuit of Making One's Own Amusements: and if these sometimes turn out to involve a karaoke machine and a pantomime cow, so what? It is nobody's business but ours. Last spring, when I depicted the mysterious fourth Brontë Sister of Haworth, our Shirley, in the local players' magnificent ad-libbed creation *Passion at the*

Parsonage, I was pretty glad that none of the intellectual summer visitors had actually arrived yet. Delivering lines like "Oh, Mr Heathcliff, there's a throb of life in you that could tempt me from 'chimney corner,'" one wants to be sure of an understanding and compassionate (and small) audience. When engaging in dramatic moments like the blowing-out of the paraffin lamp and finding that its shade has fallen off and one is visibly blowing on an electric light-bulb, one does not want the waxed-jacket set from the *Telegraph* arts pages to have wandered in from their chic Aldeburgh cottages to see it. There is much to be said for being a small community, *entre nous* for nine months of the year.

And yet somehow, the more securely one is dug in to neighbourhood and village school, friends and charities, darts leagues and Brownies and the land itself (we now farm in a small way), the less one minds the tourist season. After all, there are long, beautiful months when scarcely anybody comes. There are May and June, September and October to look forward to: when we can swim in the North Sea in the quiet evening and cycle the lanes in solitude while other poor devils earn their living (and more of the Gross National Product than us, probably) in the roar and smell of the town. Why grudge them their time here? Rural England is not actually at risk of becoming a year-round adventure playground for the cities, thanks to the weather and cheap foreign holidays. Our invasion will always be brief, and limited, and dedicated.

And, let us face it, benevolent. No point sneering at the publicans for "pasting on their pecuniary grins" in summer: there could be far fewer pubs if nobody came. And fewer shops. Never mind the recession, the Uniform Business Rate has crippled small retailers in the south of England, many of whom are being asked to pay ten times as much as before on two-thirds of the trade.

There are new bankruptcies in the country every week, and the old family businesses which struggle on valiantly for our benefit all year deserve the boost they get from weekenders and holidaymakers, who are happy to make free with their money. If they are embarrassingly charmed by the experience of buying wellington boots in a shop with a counter, or find the shopkeeper's accent "quaint", so what? The money comes in handy.

And some of the publicans' grins are not entirely pecuniary. When your regulars are a dour lot and prone to grumbling about cloudy ale and the fact that you have moved the dartboard a

quarter of an inch, it is not unpleasant to have a beaming family tangle in from a long invigorating walk, look around rosiest at your beams and your inglenook and your fruit-machine and breathe: "Oh, this is marvellous! Oh, don't ever change a thing! Gosh, Adams on draught, bliss! I wonder, could you possibly manage a ploughmans?" It is like the brief, innocent thrill a middle-aged mother gets from having her hand kissed by an Italian count. It's not real, it's not for keeps, but it doesn't half perk you up.

We need the visitor population to defend us against more sinister ills than bankruptcy, too. I have lately begun to suspect that — unromantic though it may be — the truth is that the only hope for the environmental salvation of the British countryside lies in its tourist appeal. Not in weekend-cottaging: that is recognised to be a serious social problem, particularly in Wales and the southwest, where city buyers unfairly use their economic power to snap up cottages in the centre of villages and leave them largely empty while local couples are homeless. But tripperism is a different matter. It creates a demand market for just those things which otherwise are harder and harder to justify.

Farmers are in desperate financial straits: if hedgerows and copses, butterflies and shaded paths are of no fiscal benefit, they will not keep them. Only the other week the new environment department guidelines on rural planning made it quite clear that "little weight need be given to the loss" of farmland of "poor to moderate" quality. Mr Major said there is no longer a need "to offer as much protection to farmland now that we have food surpluses". But poor to moderate quality farmland is often beautiful, and peaceful, and wild; not enough, perhaps, to get

the pompous formal protection of a national park or an AONB (area of outstanding natural beauty), but lovely enough to be missed if it vanishes under industrial parks and bungalows.

We hope the trippers will not let that happen. We need their clout and determination to resist worse, and less reversible, disasters than a few holiday cottages. One must be realistic and admit that in a democracy, numbers count. When somebody wants to rape a bit of marshland or do something vile to

orchids. Nobody from the city — where most power lies — is going to stand up for the countryside if they "find no friends" in it and are excluded from breathing its air. Mere self-interest should make even disgruntled solitary marshmen paste on the odd expedient smile. (City-based campaigners also have the advantage that they can loudly and necessarily question projects like Sizewell B — as weekenders led by Diana Quick did — because they are not in daily, embarrassing contact with people whose only chance of work depends on the thing continuing.)

On the lighter side, holidaymakers remind us of how to enjoy ourselves. The place where you live can too easily turn into a treadmill of house, shops, school gate, garage, and the nearest stationer with a fax for hire. It is when the first visitors arrive at spring half-term, breathing deeply and exclaiming at everything, that we awake with a start from the trance of our daily working lives and remember to have picnics again. And to get the dinghy out and see if the oaks on Iken Cliff have survived the winter; and generally to look with fresh holidaymaking eyes on our surroundings.

In our house it is axiomatic that the only time we sit out in the garden is when weekend visitors come: the same applies to the wider scene. And although it is locals who organise and cherish the big events — the carnivals, the fireworks on the beach, the chaotic procession of illuminated fancy dress punts at Thorpeness or the tidal wave of children crabbing at Walberswick — they would not be the same without visitors, either competing or cheering us on.

Anyway, sharing is the Christian, the humanitarian thing to do. Last summer, rather nervously, we joined the band of rural families who support the Children's Country Holidays Fund, offering hospitality to the poorest families from east London. One of our guests, a teenage mixx, could not bear the place once she found Radio Suffolk sadly deficient in hip-hop music and the carnival "boring". She went home, as was her right.

But the other child flourished, and in the end her mother and five-year-old brother came to join us, and we picnicked and cycled and sailed and eventually even persuaded Carla that river mud was OK stuff to have all over your legs, and not the same as real dirt. One night we punted round Thorpeness Meare dressed as pirates, and little Andrew gasped at the fireworks reflected in the still water; on the other evenings his mother Teresa and I sat on the back step together and looked at the full moon for hours, and talked, and heard the barn owl. And I thought hell, what right have I or anybody to deny Teresa and all other Teresas a quiet night

with the harvest moon and the owl? It's hers as much as mine.

So welcome, visitors, welcome, to our paths and skies and mud and moon: remember to wipe your feet as you leave, and when you walk the corridors of power, or cast a Greenish vote at the election, stick up for the things we both love. You are welcome, and we like you.

Well, most of you, I suppose it is true that some pretty appalling, arrogant, selfish people come down with the tourist invasion and get up everybody's nose. But human nature is mixed everywhere, is it not? And there are, to be frank, some pretty arrogant, selfish people living round here, too.

Are you a townie who reserves the right to make the great rural escape at weekends? Or a country resident on the receiving end of the urban invasion? If you would like to contribute your views on the debate, please send them to *Weekend Times*, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.



We need the visitors to defend us against bankruptcy — and more sinister ills

an historic barn, we know perfectly well that the environment department will not be swayed by the handful of people who can actually see the thing all year round from their bedroom windows. We know that when some fearful development threatens — like the ridiculous, and now quashed, plan to turn Southwold harbour into a Dutch-style leisure marina experience — local protesters need city campaigners to help.

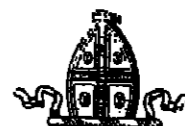
Sure, the local folk group can sing furiously about it and the fishermen picket the harbour, but what will really work is getting Bernard Levin in print, thundering away about how he once went to the Aldeburgh Festival and cherishes every blade of marram-grass. We need Cabinet ministers whose daughters paddled in the endangered stream, and chairmen of enormous banks whose wives have a thing about wild

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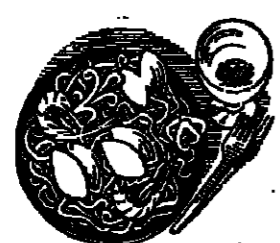
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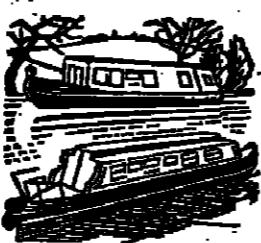
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PASTA PASSION

Frances Bissell, The Times cook, shares some classic Italian secrets and discovers a little balsamico goes a very long way

Page 6



TALLY HO

All over the country a new generation of foxhunters is riding to hounds in an effort to keep the sport alive into the 21st century

Page 9



BATH TIME

Built by the Romans, rebuilt by the Georgians and thankfully untouched by modern developers, Bath continues to inspire

Page 10

Television: Lynne Truss on innocent women Page 3 Eating out: Jonathan Meades follows the guide to a curry house Page 7 Children: In at the deep end for charity Page 8

FILM

AFRAID OF THE DARK (18): Mark Peploe's clever but disagreeable psychological thriller about fear and blindness. With Ben Kayworth, James Fox, Fanny Ardant. **Canterbury Plaza (071-485 2443)** **Canterbury Haymarket (071-639 1527)**

BARTON FINK (15): The Coen brothers' marvellous macabre comedy about a New York playwright all at sea in 1940s Hollywood. Starring John Turturro, John Goodman. A triple Cannes prizewinner. **Gate (071-727 4043)** **Lumière (071-636 0691)** **Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366)**

BETTY BLUE (18): Three-hour version of Jean-Jacques Beineix's tale of mad love, released with cuts in 1986. The plot makes more sense, but the style of grandiose chic still irritates. With Isabella Rossellini, Jean-Hughes Anglade. **Electric (071-792 2020)**

BLACK ROSE (15): Seventeenth-century Jesuit (Lothaire Bluteau) tries to convert Indians in northern Quebec. Intelligent epic from Brian Moore's novel. Director, Bruce Beresford. **Canterbury Fulham Road (071-370 2636)** **MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)** **Plaza (071-497 9999)**



Fanny Ardant and James Fox at risk in *Afraid of the Dark*

DEATH IN BRUNSWICK (15): Sam Neill as an ageing mother's boy sucked into love, violence and accidental murder. Tasty black comedy from new Australian director, John Ruane. **Canterbury (071-352 5096)** **Tottenham Court Road (071-636 0148)** **Metro (071-437 0757)** **Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772)**

DELICATESS (15): French video whizzkids Jeanne and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a household of tenants living above a cannibalistic butcher. With Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac. **Canterbury (071-352 5096)** **Tottenham Court Road (071-636 0148)** **Metro (071-437 0757)** **Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772)**

FATHER OF THE BRIDE (PG): Daughter's impending wedding drives Steve Martin crazy. Disappointing remake of the 1950 classic, for audiences who want to be spoon-fed. With Dane Cook, director, Charles Shyer. **Bartican (071-638 8891)** **Canterbury (071-352 5096)** **Oxford Street (071-636 0310)** **Odeons (071-434 0031)** **West End (071-434 0031)** **West End (071-434 0031)** **Screen on the Green (071-226 3520)** **Whiteleys (071-792 3332)**

THE FAVOUR, THE WATCH AND THE VERY BIG FISH (15): Frenky absurdity about a French photographer of devotional scenes (Bob Hoskins) struggling to find his Christ. With Jeff Goldblum, Natasha Richardson, director, Ben Lewin. **Odeon Haymarket (0426 915533)**

FOR THE BOYS (15): Song-and-dance team entertain troops in three wars, only to be ruined by a synthetic script. With Betty Miller, James Caan, director, Mark Rydell. **Odeons (071-434 0031)** **West End (071-434 0031)** **Whiteleys (071-792 3332)**

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY (15): Short-order cook (Al Pacino) courts a won, waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer). Synthetic adaptation of Terrence McNally's play. Director, Garry Marshall. **Canterbury Fulham Road (071-370 2636)** **Empire (071-497 9999)** **MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)** **Whiteleys (071-792 3332)**

JFK (15): Oliver Stone's contentious, electrifying, three-hour drama about the Kennedy assassination. Kevin Costner as crusading D. A. Jim Garrison, a bustling supporting cast. **Canterbury Fulham Road (071-370 2636)** **Empire (071-497 9999)** **MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)** **Whiteleys (071-792 3332)**

THE LUNATIC (15): Helly German lout almost undoes a Jamaican innocent (the brilliant Paul Campbell). Artless feature debut by pop video director Lol Creme. **Prince Charles (071-437 8181)**

VAN GOGH IN ENGLAND
AND EGLESTON
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THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLE (18): Tangled affairs of a philandering journalist (Peter Firth). Flawed comedy that seems left over from the Swinging Sixties; writer-director David Cohen. **Canterbury Oxford Street (071-636 0310)**

THE PRINCE OF TIDES (15): New York psychiatrist helps football coach face family secrets. Romantic drama with ideas above its station, grandly acted by Nick Nolte. Barbra Streisand directs and co-stars, but fails to sing. **Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915683)**

RAISE THE RED LANTERN (PG): Zhang Yimou's austere, quietly dazzling drama of a concubine's struggles in Twentieth Century China. **Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742/3743)** **Metro (071-437 0757)** **Renoly (071-637 8402)**

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS (U): Disney's first full-length cartoon (1937). Overly cute at times, but still a treat for children and the young at heart. **Canterbury (071-352 5096)** **Haymarket (071-639 1527)** **Oxford Street (071-636 0310)** **MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)** **Odeon Mezzanine (0426 915683)** **Whiteleys (071-792 3332)**

STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY (PG): Farewell Kirk and Spock, battling galaxy war-mongers in their last screen adventure. Underwhelming, but adequate. With William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, director, Nicholas Meyer. **Canterbury Baker Street (071-636 0310)** **Empire (071-497 9999)** **Whiteleys (071-792 3332)**

URGA (PG): Nikita Mikhalkov's mesmerising film about civilisation encroaching on the Mongolian steppes. The top prizewinner at last year's Venice Film Festival. **Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865)**

LES VALSEUSES (18): Gérard Depardieu and Patrick Dewaere in 1974, as two lads with idle hands. Timely revival of Bertrand Blier's farcical, amoral, snook-cocking 1974 romp. **Canterbury Piccadilly (071-437 3551)**

THEATRE

LONDON

LA BETTE: Bravura performance by Alan Cumming in a strange Mollière parody: eccentric but clever. **Lyric Hamamersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311)**. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA: Alec McCowen and Amanda Root in a disappointingly flat version of Shaw's anti-romantic drama. **Greenwich, Croom's Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755)**. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightclub, high on energy, low on story freshness. **Adelphi, The Adelphi, WC2 (071-636 9404)**. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory-play, set in Thirties Donegal. **Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085)**. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sines songs. **Boulevard, Walker's Court, off Finner Street, W1 (071-437 2661)**. Mon-Sat, 8.15pm, Fri late show, 10.15pm, mat Sat, 6pm.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics. **Great Hall, Adelphi, WC2 (071-240 0300)**. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

A HARD HEART: Howard Barker's latest play, set in a besieged European city, with Anna Massey as an architect bent upon saving the Queen (Angela Down). **Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404)**. Previews from Thurs, 8pm. Opens March 3, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as a shonky king, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work. **National (Lyttelton), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252)**. Tonight, Mon, 7.30pm, mat today, 2.15pm.

MAKING IT BETTER: James Saunders's subtle play concerned with ideals, reality and liberation in Prague and London. **Jane Asher in an exemplary cast of four**. **Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9011)**. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

MOBY DICK: Tony Monopoly plays the headmistress of a girls' school who mounts a version of Melville's novel in the swimming pool with herself/herself as a Cap'n Ahab and the girls as everyone else. Songs and lyrics by Robert Langdon and Hereward Kaye. So bizarre an idea that it could be terrific. **Piccadilly, Donnan Street, W1 (071-967 1118)**. Previews from Tues, 8pm. Opens March 11, 7pm.

THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA: Alfred Molina and a superb Eileen Atkins in Tennessee Williams's late play on the effects of sexual repression. **National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252)**. Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.15pm.

ONCE UPON A SONG: New Anthony Newley musical about the effects of marital discord on a teenage daughter, with Newley, Dame Langton and Natalie Wright. **King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916)**.



Reaching new heights: Jane Haworth and Thomas Edur star in *A Stranger I Came* presented by the English National Ballet

Previews from Wed, 8pm. Opens March 2, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, Sun, 3.30pm.

THE POCKET DREAM: Mike McShane and Sandi Toksvig play theatre staff who help a half-strength touring company to put on "the ultimate comic version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*". **Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-667 1115)**. Previews from Wed, 7.45pm. Opens March 4, 7pm. Then Tues-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat, Sun, 3pm.

PYGMIES IN THE RUINS: Ron Hutchinson's stirring drama, first seen at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, explores two violent deaths in the city, separated by 120 years of troubles. Opens on Monday. **Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 (071-730 1745)**. Previews tonight, 8pm. Opens Mon, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.



Desolate: Patricia Routledge appears in *Talking Heads*

TALKING HEADS: Patricia Routledge and Alan Bennett excellent in three of his monologues charting the monologue of humour and pain of desolate lives. **Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045)**. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

UNCLE VANYA: Ian McKellen, Anthony Sher, Lesley Sharp in a promising new version of Chekhov's play from Pam Gems, directed by Sean Mathias. The production opens on Tuesday. **National (Cottesloe), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252)**. 7.30pm.

WALPURGIS NIGHT: Fascinating look at life and death in a Soviet psychiatric hospital by V. Erofeev, a former inmate. **Snoo Wilson translates.** **Gale, Princes Albert Park, 11 Pembroke Road, W11 (071-229 0760)**. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

BIRMINGHAM: *Islands*, loosely based by Guy Hunsford on a true story, tells with dance, music and text the story of a Native American "rescued" by Catholic missionaries from a Californian island. **Birmingham Rep Studio, Broad Street (021-236 4455)**. Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm (four of Midlands schools follows).

BURY ST EDMUNDS: Touring production of the immortal *Charley's Aunt* reaches the theatre where it began life 100 years ago this week. With Mark Curry, Patrick Cargill and Gabrielle Drake. **Theatre Royal, Westgate Street (0284 769505)**. Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

GUILDFORD: Paul Schofield and Vanessa Redgrave head a dazzling cast in Trevor Nunn's production of Shaw's "Fantasia in the Russian manner". **Heartbreak House.** The production opens in Guildford prior to its West End showing from March 11. **Millbrook (0483 60191)**. Opens Wed, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm. Fri, Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 3pm.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

MOSCOW STATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Pavel Kogin conducts and Derek Han is the pianist in a mix-and-match Russian programme of Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Arensky, Glinka and Shostakovich. **Symphony Hall, Birmingham (021-212 3333)**, tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. **Dorset Theatre, Northampton (0504 24881)**, Mon, 7.30pm. **Plymouth (0782 22622)**, Tues, 7.30pm. **Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 228867)**, cc 0272 228863, Wed, 7.30pm. **Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 49826/49841)**, Fri, 7.30pm. **Town Hall, Leeds (0532 478662/455505)**, next Sat, 7.30pm.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: The Merseyside tradition of Industrial Concerts, introduced after the second world war to revive audience figures which had slumped as a direct result of economic austerity, continues with three performances in the orchestra's home city. **Vernon Handley conducts Weber's Oberon Overture, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 9 (with Piotr Anderszewski) and Vaughan Williams's A London Symphony.** The same programme is then taken cross-country to Middlesbrough. **Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool (051-709 3789)**, Tues-Thurs, 7.45pm. **Town Hall, Middlesbrough (0842 242561)**, Fri, 7.45pm.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Conducted by Simon Rattle, the orchestra plays two early 20th-century masterpieces in this instalment of the epic "Towards the Millennium" series. The decade on which they are concentrating this year is from 1911 to 1920, and this Viennese programme consists of Berg's Three Pieces for Orchestra, Op. 6 and Deryck Cooke's masterly completion of Mahler's Tenth Symphony. **Symphony Hall, Birmingham (021-212 3333)**, Thurs, 7.30pm. **University of Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry (0203 524524)**, Fri, 7.30pm. **Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800)**, next Sat, 7.30pm.

CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA: The CLS's 20th anniversary celebrations occupy an entire

weekend with open rehearsals and workshops with school students. Performances by the group include the London premiere of Simon Banbridge's Double Concerto for oboe and clarinet and world premieres of Elis Pehtonen's Violin Concerto, Barry Guy's *After the Rain*, and Peter Wiegold's *Sinfonia Concertante*. **Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800)**, today from 10am (concert at 7.45pm), tomorrow from 10am (concerts at 12.30pm and 7.45pm).

STEVE REICH AND MUSICIANS: This one-off concert is the first British date since the South Bank's Reich Festival in 1988. Reich's work is more lively and positive than the usual minimalist music and this programme includes four of his classics. **Drumming (Part 1), Electric Counterpoint, Sextet and Different Trains.** **Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800)**, Thurs, 7.30pm.

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Pierre Boulez returns to the Royal Opera to conduct a marvellous programme consisting of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *agm*, his own *Notations 1-4*, and Luciano Berio's *Unrehearsed*. The orchestra is joined by the BBC Singers and the vocal group Electric Phoenix, while person(s) unknown will flick the switches for a hearing of Stockhausen's mid-Fifties tape piece, *Gesang der Junglinge*. **Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC1 (071-638 8891)**, Wed, 7.45pm.

OPERA
LES CONTES D'HOPFMAN: Return to John Schlesinger's production for the Royal Opera of Offenbach's opera, now staged by Richard Gregson and with an impressive cast. **Jerry Hadley sings Hoffmann, while the poet's three loves are sung by Sam Jo (Olympia), Leonora Hewells (Giuletta), Gregory Yursach takes on the roles of the four villains.** **Jeffrey Tate is the conductor.** **Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1065/1911)**, Mon, 7pm.

BARBER OF SEVILLE: Meanwhile down the road a notable bicentenary is celebrated with another revival. This one is of Jonathan Miller's widely praised

English National Opera production of Barber's opera, re-staged by John Altaba, in a clever translation by Amanda and Anthony Holden. **Michael Lewis makes his house debut as Figaro, while Eirian James sings Rosina.** The cast also includes Peter Brondar as Almaviva, Andrew Shore as Bartolo, and Richard Angas as Basilio. **Jeck Kasparyk, another house debutant, conducts.** **Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3181)**, cc 071-240 5258, Wed and next Sat, 7.30pm.

JAZZ
COURTNEY PINE: Despite the recent backlash against this stylish front-runner of the British jazz revival, Pine is still one of the most exciting saxophonists around, improvising with flair and dizzy abandon. **Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031-668 2018)**, Fri, 8.30pm.



Courtney Pine: still a stylish improvisational sax player

MODERN JAZZ
SPECTACULAR: The impressive young pianist, Jason Rebello, plays on a bit with the Guildhall School of Music Jazz Band and the Clark Tracey Quintet to provide an evening of fresh-faced modern jazz. **Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891)**, Fri, 7.45pm.

ROCK
LITTLE VILLAGE: John Hatt, Ry Cooder, Nick Lowe and Jim Keltner come together to form an intriguing new band. Supergroups are always hit or miss affairs - too many egos can spoil the broth - but this one is worth a ticket if only to see how Nick Lowe and Ry Cooder jam together. **Playhouse, Edinburgh (031-557 2550)**, tomorrow, 7.45pm. **Hammerstein Odeon, London W6 (081-741 4888)**, Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm.

ACHANAK: Dynamic dance music from one of the finest exponents of new wave thengra, a vital mix of traditional Indian rhythms and western pop. An eight-piece band, Achanak won the Best Live Act category in the 1991 Asian Pop Awards. **Tonight's gig is the first in a monthly series, "Bhangra on the River".** **Waterman's Arts Centre, Brentford, Middlesex (081-568 1176)**, Fri, 10.30pm.

EXHIBITIONS

VAN GOGH IN ENGLAND: No, there is no great undiscovered English period in Van Gogh's painting to match the wonders of Brabant, Paris, Arles and St-Remy. But the time he spent in England 1873-76, was extremely important for his subsequent development, opening his eyes to the social realist work of illustrators and of painters such as Herkomer and Fildes, as well as Uglia. Dore's grim views of contemporary London, this exhibition in the background, with examples of the British art which fascinated the painter and ten important Van Gogh paintings. **Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 4141)** Mon and Wed-Sat.

10am-6.45pm, Tues, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, Monday-6.45pm, from February 27 to May 4.

BRICE MARDEN - PRINTS: Emerging in New York in the 1950s, Marden was more or less obliged to be an Abstract Expressionist at the beginning of his career. But he soon moved to a more severe, minimalist style, which was gradually modified under the influence of classical architecture. More recently his work has returned to the loose, calligraphic quality of his first phase. His prints, many of the finest in black and white, parallel his paintings, and collectively make up one of the most important bodies of graphic work in recent American art. **Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313)**. Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm. Sun, 2-5.30pm, from February 26 to June 21.

TEN YEARS OF THE JOHN PLAYER PORTRAIT AWARD: Despite the perennial debate about what a portrait is and just where likeness shades into art, the annual competition at the National Portrait Gallery established a place for itself in the ten years, 1980-89, that it was sponsored by John Player. The unveiling of the last of the direct commissions involved, Tai-Shan Scherberg's portrait of John Mortimer, offers an occasion for showing the dozen commissioned portraits together. They are generally rather too conservative, perhaps the most interesting is the one most argued-over, Alison Wall's 1987 portrait of the Queen Mother. **National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055)**. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, from February 28 to March 15.

THE ART OF DEATH: Our post-Reformation ancestors reacted energetically to the prospect of their own mortality. This exhibition spanning the years from 1500-1800 shows how people surrounded themselves with reminders of death and how they would work hard to commemorate friends and relatives who had died. **Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 (071-938 8364)**. Mon-Sat, 10am-5.40pm, Sun, 2.30-5.40pm, until March 22.

ANDREA MANTEGNA: Since one of Mantegna's greatest works, the great series devoted to *The Triumph of Caesar*, is part of the royal collection, London seems a logical place to launch this first major retrospective of the painter for many years. Mantegna is unique among 15th-century Italian artists for the impression he gives of person only just held in check by the disciplines of classical form. **Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438)**, daily, 10am-5pm, until April 5. Sponsored by Olivetti.

SALEROOMS

MONDAY: Robin Fenner's sale of books and collectors' items in Tavistock includes documents relating to Lord Haw-Haw, and a number of old railway station signs. **Robin A. Fenner, Stanbury Gallery, Drake Road, Tavistock, Devon (0822 617798).**

TUESDAY: Phillips offer both old master paintings and English, continental and oak furniture at 11am, and suitable frames for the paintings might be found at Bonhams at the same time. The latter should range between about £100 and £2,000. **Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602).** **Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (071-584 9151).**

WEDNESDAY: At Stourbridge, Gates Haywood's sale of paintings and furniture begins at 10.30am. In Shropshire Walker Barnett & Hill of Wolverhampton have taken the Park House Hotel at Shifnal for their sale of English and continental furniture, 11am, while at the same time in Guildford, Hampton's have a Tensers tavern scene among their paintings, watercolours and prints. **Giles Haywood, St John's Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands (0384 378891)**. Fri, 7.45pm.

THURSDAY: Christie's, South Kensington's British ceramic sale includes Julian Critchley's collection of Staffordshire figures. 10.30am. Half the morning session of Sotheby's silver sale, 11am and 2.30pm, is taken up by the remarkable set of plate commissioned by the 2nd Lord Newborough in the 1850s. The family history was as romantically eccentric as the plate is splendid. A pair of soup tureens could make up to £80,000 and a silver-gilt tray up to £70,000. Also at 11am Christie's have an English furniture sale featuring a formidable early Victorian Gothic mahogany secretary bookcase (up to £20,000). **Bloomsbury Book Auctions have a first edition of Treasure Island at up to £2,200.** **Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611).** **Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8060).** **Christie's, King Street, St James's, London SW1 (071-639 5060).** **Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 3 & 4 Hardwick Street, London EC1 (071-833 2626).**

DANCE
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: As part of a triple bill, the company presents a new work by Robert North. Entitled *A Stranger I Came*, the piece is set to Schubert songs and is designed by Andrew Slorer. Following its premiere in Edinburgh, the piece is taken on ENB's small-scale spring tour together with Christopher Bruce's *Swansong* and Balanchine's *Appalo*. **Arts Theatre, Cambridge**

(0223 352000), today, 2.30pm and 8pm. **Towngate Theatre, Basingdon (02625 52832)**, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm, mat Tues, 2.30pm. **Coronation Hall, Ulverston (0229 52299)**, Thurs, next Sat, 7.30pm, mat Fri, 1.30pm. **MANON:** Kenneth MacMillan's passionate ballet, based on the story by Abbe Prevost, makes a welcome return to the Royal Ballet repertoire. Wednesday's opening night cast features rising-star Viviana Durante as the self-destructive 18th-century French courtesan, with Irina Mukhamadov as her impoverished lover Des Grieux. A great story, and a great ballet! **Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066)**, Wed, 7.30pm.

UNION DANCE COMPANY: Following a national tour, Union brings its *Step Up in Tempo* programme to London for two nights at the Lillian Baylis Theatre, the small venue attached to Sadler's Wells. A mixed bill brings many things to love, boxing and the joys of urban living - and includes choreography by the popular dancer, Tom Jobe. **Lillian Baylis Theatre, Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 6555)**, Fri, next Sat, 7.45pm.

BOOKINGS

STARS FROM THE BOLSHOI BALLET: Bolshoi ballerina Natalya Bessmertnaya is leading a company of 30 dancers on an extensive British tour from April until July visiting 27 venues. Under the direction of Bolshoi director Yuri Grigorovich, the group will perform two programmes, including the second acts of *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* presented with a selection of divertissements. The tour is designed to bring a taste of the Bolshoi to venues too small to accommodate the full company. **Dates in April:** **Orchard, Kent (0222 343333)**, 12. **Dominion, London (071-580 9562)**, 13-18. **Pavilion, Bournemouth (0202 287297)**, 20-23. **Pavilion, Plymouth (0752 228222)**, 24, 25. **De Montfort Hall, Leicester (0533 544444)**, 28-29. **Regent, Ipswich (0473 281480)**, April 30-May 2.

REFLECTED GLORY: Ronald Harwood's new play follows the relationship of two brothers, one a successful restaurateur and the other, a playwright. The cast includes Albert Finney and Stephen Mangan in the leading roles under the direction of Elijah Moshinsky. The production receives a short tour before a proposed West End showing at Alexandra, Birmingham (021-333 3333), February 24-29. **Hippodrome, Bristol (0272 239444)**, March 2-7. **Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 28488)**, March 9-14. **Palace, Manchester (061-236 5922)**, March 16-22. **Grand, London (0753 0532)**, 45/351/440791, March 23-28.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY: The company marks its ten years at the Barbican with the first London showing of Adrian Noble's highly acclaimed production of *Henry IV Part 1* and *11*, direct from Noble's first season in Stratford-upon-Avon as artistic director. The cast includes Robert Stephens as Falstaff, Michael Maloney as Prince Hal, and Julian Glover as Henry IV. **Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (081-638 8891)**. Previews from March 26, opens March 31. Booking opens February 26.

VIDEOS

EVERYBODY'S FINE (RCA/Columbia, PG): Marcello Mastroianni's Sicilian old-timer makes surprise visits to his five children, but finds only deception and turbulence. Bitter-sweet drama from *Cinema Paradiso* director, erratic in inspiration but deftly performed. 1990.

Innocence is often such bliss

Lynne Truss watches the women who have stepped out of relative obscurity into the all-seeing eye of the television cameras

The term "a sheltered life" has rather vivid connotations, to my mind. Principally, it makes me think of old ladies in rain hats huddling in chilly bus shelters, with umbrellas dribbling against their shopping bags. Defining it less literally, it is more difficult perhaps because the only sheltered life anyone ever finds truly astonishing is their own. I mean, gadzooks, was I really 24 before I bought a pair of green tights? Amazing to think of all those wasted, blinkered, honey-beige years. On the other hand, if someone tells me "Do you know, I never had a Curly-Wurly till I was 29", I feel a chasm of blankness open before me. How can one imagine a life without Curly-Wurlys? Where would you start?

The fulcrum between innocence and experience seemed to feature quite heavily in television this week — what with *Everyman* (BBC1) talking to Australian ex-nuns about their sheltered convent life, and *Bookmark* (BBC2) affectionately dramatising the miniature village-gossip adventures of the novelist Barbara Pym. But it was most crucial of all to the new Sunday testime series *Hannah Hauxwell: Innocent Abroad* (ITV), a programme that relies rather too heavily, perhaps, on the belief that an audience can watch someone waking up to their first Curly-Wurly, and somehow find it interesting.

Hannah, a white-haired Dales woman who was filmed in 1973 cheerfully subsisting on a bleak, cold hilltop farm (without running water or electricity), is in this series packed off to Europe and observed confronting a world beyond her ken. It's a sort of "noble savage" idea, I think (meaning no offence). Previously she had never been on a boat, except to travel between North Shields and South Shields. Now she sails for France. Previously, she had never tasted an alcoholic drink. Now she takes a tiny sip of champagne, so as not to offend a pushy Parisian during a river-boat dinner.

Since Miss Hauxwell is a celebrity, there is no hint that her "innocence" is being patronised or made fun of. She is not starring in a Doris Day movie — or in *Greystoke*, either. She does not tell the bell-hop at the Hotel George V to draw her an ice-cold bath and

REVIEW

turn all the namby-pamby lights out. So what is the point, exactly? She is pleasant, sensible and well-informed and endlessly polite in the face of new experience. "That's very nice," she says, quite often. When she wrestles briefly with the ring-pull on a tin of Perrier water, the scene is obviously not meant to be cruel or funny — but nor is it, alas, a moment of epiphany. "Oh brave new world, that has these tins of drink in it" is not something she says. If she is impressed by anything, she does not really "let on". When all is said and done, you see, she is from Yorkshire.

So, if you can stand the initial analogy to be extended any further, the programme basically takes someone who has famously been deprived of Curly-Wurlys, and gives them one. It then asks: "Is this the first time you've ever had a Curly-Wurly?" "Yes, it is." "And what do you think of it?" "It's very nice." "Very nice? Is that all you can say?" "Well, very nice, thank you." And that's it.

Plays and novels, of course, often make the transitions between innocence and experience slightly more interesting. In Tuesday's *Rides* (BBC1), for example, we were given the intriguing (though implausible) example of the no-nonsense Patrice (Jill Baker), who manages to be ultra-tough yet breathtakingly naïve at one and the same moment. Patrice has spent the past umpteen years in the army, but has now slipped into some civilian multi (from C&A, it looks like) and thrown all her parade-ground expertise into launching a mini-cab firm in Dalston. (Is it a successful one? I don't know, but she gets overwhelmed with business ("I need more drivers") without anyone ever phoning and asking for a cab.)

Why, then, is she so slow to spot ne'er-do-wells and obvious criminals among her male drivers? Perhaps the sheltered life of the army protected her from television serials, with the result that she doesn't spot a corny plot-line when she sees it.

I mean, a shifty-looking type (wides eyebrows, mustache, in the middle set up a special "courier" service, collecting packages regularly from Heathrow — and Patrice just thinks it's great. Wise



Village gossip: Patricia Routledge, Marcia Warren and Ian McNeice making a virtue out of ordinariness in last week's *Bookmark*

up, Patrice! It's drugs! These television people are making a patsy out of you! They are even filming you running through the city in a track suit, to the accompaniment of up-beat *Cagney and Lacey*-type music. Where have you been? Next week they'll be having you stop, panting, at a hot-dog stand, and buying a Curly-Wurly.

Perhaps she should have stayed huddled in the barracks bus shelter, after all. There's really no disgrace in it. If some people bite off more than they can chew, equally there are other, more inherently cautious people who deliberately chew more than they bite off. I was terribly impressed, for example, by the bruised-looking women in this week's *40 Minutes* (BBC2) who had gone out in search of an ideal husband, and had the brilliant idea of marrying blokes serving life sentences for murder. What stagger-

ing self-knowledge they displayed, and what good sense (unless, of course, the bloke gets parole). It solves so many routine marital problems: the snoring, the discarded socks, the worrying whether he's not murdering somebody. Bless him, you'd hardly know he was there.

Finally, to the wistful Barbara Pym *Bookmark*, in which Patricia Routledge impersonated the novelist on a certain day in 1977, when she travelled to town for the Booker Prize dinner (she had been short-listed for *Quartet in Autumn*, her first published book in 14 years). Here was a devout, humorous woman who knew better than to reach for unsuitable Curly-Wurlys: who, without any self-pity, made a virtue of the sheltered life. In her fiction, she chewed precisely the tiny amount she had

bitten off (English genteel village life, clerical amours, etc) and masticated it with intense thoroughness. God is in the details, as they say.

Mixing fictional characters with real people (Jilly Cooper and A.N. Wilson sort of straddling the line), director James Runcie handled this special day with great delicacy. We are so accustomed to Patricia Routledge's vivid performances in Alan Bennett or Victoria Wood ("Good evening, my name's Kitty. I've had a boob off and I can't stomach whelks, so that's me for you"), that it was amazing to see her springing fresh as a daisy into a comic-pathetic role so very muted and quiet. Runcie re-created an interview for *The Book Programme* in which Will Wynt suggested that the lives of her characters could be called "humdrum". Routledge gave the tiniest wince, which said it all.

What interested her, she said modestly, was failure. She had always had sympathy for people who failed.

"We are all thrown back on ourselves in the end," she said, in voiceover. Having failed to win the Booker Prize (and reacting with perfect, heart-breaking bravery on hearing that the winner is Paul Scott), she returns alone by moonlight to the house in Oxfordshire she shares with her sister. The fictional characters are preparing for bed — making a hot drink, reading recipe books, cleaning their teeth. Her real sister, Hilary, puts out the milk bottles. There is nothing fey about this; the point, I think, is that they are equally human, and equally thrown back on themselves in the end. Knowledge of mortality, perhaps, goes hand in hand with the sheltered life. The Curly-Wurlys are really only a distraction.

PREVIEW

• The Addams Family

(Monday, BBC2, 6pm)
Somewhere in the vaults of a BBC archive, a door creaks open and a distant, muffled theme tune is heard beyond cobwebby walls. It goes sort of "Da-da-da-dum (click-click)". It is *The Addams Family*, cheerfully exhuming itself after 20 years of lying ash-en-faced in coffins — thanks to the success of Barry Sonnenfeld's movie. Will the film spoil the joke for new viewers? It can hardly fail, really. But such negative thoughts are rather appropriate in this context.

"Are you unhappy, darling?"

"Oh, yes, yes, completely."

Both series and film are based on Charles Addams's New Yorker cartoons ("Well, don't come whining to me. Go tell him you'll poison him right back"), and peg away at the same basic reversal gag — viz. that weird is relative. In this first episode, Morticia (Carolyn Jones) keeps the gruesome kiddies home from school because their heads are being filled with happy fairy-tales.

• Take Your Pick

(Monday, ITV, 8pm)

More shock of the new with this one, too. I'm afraid. The old Michael Miles show — complete with Box 13, the boob prize, the "yes-no interlude" and the audience cry of "Take the money! Open the box!" — has been dusted down and handed to Des O'Connor.

"You didn't shake your head in disbelief then, did you?"

"I most certainly did, Des."

"Will you be watching on Monday?"

"I will not, Des."

"Was that a No?"

"Yes."

Gong...

• Arena: The Incredible Case of Comrade Rockstar

(Friday, BBC2, 9pm)

Dean Reed may not be a name familiar to western pop-pickers (if you'll pardon the expression), but mention his name in Vladivostok and you'll be surprised at the response.

Various described by the publicity for this *Arena* as "the Red Elvis" and "the Red Sinatra" (he is surely either one or the other — you can't really be both), Reed was the biggest rock star the communist world ever knew, selling millions of records. He was even awarded the Lenin Prize. Based on Reggie Nadelson's book *Comrade Rockstar*, Leslie Woodhead's film follows Dean Reed's bizarre career — which started innocently enough in Colorado, and went on to include such surreal events as performing for Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, and singing *My Yiddisher Momma* to Yasser Arafat.

L.T.

Breaking the Morse code

The final episode in the fifth series of *Inspector Morse*, entitled "Promised Land", left a disillusioned Morse alone on the steps of Sydney Opera House while *Der Rosenkavalier* soared on the soundtrack. Some viewers were afraid that this was the last we would see of the dyspeptic detective, but they need not have worried: the sixth series of *Inspector Morse* begins on Wednesday and airs in alternate weeks until after Easter. And contrary to reports, a seventh — and final — series is scheduled for 1993.

Now the race is on among rival television companies to find a successor to Britain's most popular detective, although with his erudition and rueful humour, Morse will be a tough act to follow. "I wanted him to be very clever," Colin Dexter, his creator, says. "I've always enjoyed people who can do cross-words in two minutes. They have a cerebral quickness and the ability to come to a conclusion — even if it's the wrong one — without hesitation. Morse was rather like Athena who sprang from the head of Zeus, fully grown and fully blown. In spite of the television series he has not altered in my mind."

This may be due, in part, to the skill of the scriptwriters, most of whom have remained faithful to Dexter's original character. Writer Julian Mitchell gave Morse the following line in "Promised Land": "I'm old and unmarried and don't understand human nature." This echoes Raymond Chandler's description of his detective: "A fellow of Marlowe's type shouldn't get married... I see him always in a lonely street, in lonely rooms, puzzled, but never quite defeated."

Morse's lacklustre competitors — Wexford, Taggart, Maigret and Van der Valk — are middle-aged married men. Of those limbering up on the starting line the BBC's Resnick is separated, LWT's Stern is divorced and Anglia's Macrae is embroiled in the aftermath of two failed marriages. Only YTV's Frost is happily hitched.

Detective Inspector Charlie Resnick has so far had three difficult cases on paper. His fourth, *Off Minor*, will be

The success of *Inspector Morse* has given birth to a new generation of TV cops



Oxford blues: John Thaw and lost love Joanna David

published by Viking at the end of March when the jazz-loving, cat-keeping fatty makes his debut on the small screen. *Lonely Hearts*, starring Tom Wilkinson and directed by Bruce Macdonald, is a gritty tale of murder and misery in Nottingham. It has been adapted into three parts by John Harvey, Resnick's creator.

The hero of *Sam Saturday* is Sam Stern (Ivan Kaye), a 30-year-old detective inspector in the Met. Alvin Rakoff, who devised, co-directed and co-produced the series for Cinema Verity, decided to make him Jewish. "His background in Talmudic logic assists him in his deduc-

tions," Mr Rakoff says. "He stresses the rational and intellectual aspects of detection as opposed to the physical, and his awareness of the problems facing minorities makes him more compassionate."

His first outing, in "late spring", begins with the dumping of a model's corpse on Hampstead Heath, but another body proves to be more trouble — his mother moves in with him.

If such tender-hearted cops seem to be a symptom of the so-called caring 1990s, *Thief Taker*, Detective Superintendent George Macrae, promises to provide a healthy corrective. Alan Scholefield, his creator, describes him as

GUILTY SECRETS: PETER SCUDAMORE



"Auf Wiedersehen Pet is my favourite programme of all time, but it's not on any more. I think *Only Fools and Horses* is probably the best thing on television at the moment. I watch all the old things, like *The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin*, and I used to love Tony Hancock, but I don't like any of this new rubbish. I usually watch *A Question of Sport*, and the one thing I do watch every evening at 8.15pm is the *Daily Racing Review* on SIS (Satellite Information Services). Before I got satellite television, Martin Pipe, the trainer, used to video the day's racing for me. I always watch it. I know it's very boring, but it's a form book to me."

"a dinosaur stuck in the time warp of the mid-1970s when the police did what they had to do to solve a crime. He can't understand how the Met has changed."

The Scottish heavy is partnered by Detective Sergeant Leopold Silver, a Jewish wit, Resnick though, does not have a sidekick. "I thought it would be more interesting to work on a wider canvas," Mr Harvey says.

The thing that interests me most about policemen is not how they type up their reports, but the way they are different from the rest of society," Mr Scholefield says. "The rate of alcoholism, stress, divorce and debt among policemen is higher than average. They perceive themselves to be misunderstood. This is why they are drawn to closed societies like the Masons."

I will be at least a year before Macrae and Silver hit the streets of London. R.D. Wingfield's Detective Inspector Frost is scheduled to patrol from the autumn.

Produced by Don Lever, whose previous credits include the excellent *Prime Suspect*, *A Touch of Frost* features David Jason as "a street copper who does things that other policemen would not do".

Unconventionality, like compassion, has become the convention. Naturally Frost has "a tremendous understanding of people's problems". In Mr Harvey's words good detective drama, like good detective fiction, should be about "real places and real people. Characters should not be introduced just to kill and be killed."

It is not so much a question of transcending genre as of exploiting the potential of the form. In many ways *Inspector Morse* is not a whodunit at all. It is more concerned with pace than with Pace — the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. The whys count for more than the whos. The central relationship between Morse and Lewis is the real focus of attention. There is a true working marriage.

MARK SANDERSON

• The Making of *Inspector Morse*, by Mark Sanderson, is published by Macmillan at £7.99.

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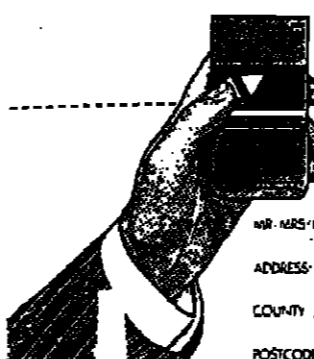
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27

Not making a crisis out of a drama

Amateur theatre long ago outgrew its "amateurish" caricature, writes Richard Morrison

The phrase "for love or money" has its uses, but is surely too precise in its pigeon-holing to be of much use in the theatre. Last Wednesday, Kenneth Rex's article in *The Times* lifted the lid on the reality of being a "top actor": stars prepared to appear for £165 a week, simply in order to do worthwhile live-theatre work. These are professionals motivated by love, not money.

Now, a glimpse of the other side: the amateur theatre world, as chronicled in a hundred delightful anecdotes and a thousand telling statistics in the new yearbook of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain. None of the 64 drama groups in the LTG is motivated by money, of course — yet one of the most striking themes of the book is the growing professionalism apparent at the top end of the amateur world.

Here are marvellous plans for buying state-of-the-art lighting boards: here is a tale of raising a £100,000 loan to re-build a theatre, and of re-paying £90,000 within four years; and here is talk of "computerised spreadsheets" to control production budgets. The Questors Theatre in Ealing offers 22 productions in a year, and embarks on a £150,000 programme to make its theatre accessible for the disabled. The Loft Theatre in Leamington Spa presents five Samuel Beckett plays in one evening (short plays, admittedly); and the New Venture in Brighton offers a season including Barrie Keeffe, Tennessee Williams, Christopher Hampton, James Saunders, Shakespeare and Denis Potter.



Professional preparation for an amateur record: London rehearsals in September 1991, for the nationwide premiere of John Godber's *Happy Families*

How can that stale caricature of amateur theatre — freezing church halls, collapsing scenery, forgotten lines — survive the evidence of this level of achievement? These may be "little theatres" in physical terms ("no member of the audience is more than four feet from the stage," boasts the Whitefield Garrick Society in Manchester), but their ambitions are enormous. Which is not to deny that the amateurs have their setbacks. The horror stories in the yearbook only increase admiration for their determination. "The building work proved less than successful, with huge cracks appearing in our newly-laid concrete floor. As soon as the season ended, a massive clearing out operation made things ready for the return of the builders, who re-laid the floor. Now the floor

has cracked again, and we have to go through the whole operation next year, for the third summer running. Then, the Environmental Health Officer declared our kitchen unfit for the serving of food." That was Lewes Theatre Club, which still managed a season of Storey, Bolt, Ayckbourn, Shaw, Whitmore and Stoppard. Environmental Health Officers and their recommendations figure in several reports. "During the closed season, we had intended to re-decorate the auditorium, but unfortunately the Environmental Health Officer has taken precedence," reports the Dunstable Theatre Club, with a touch of N.F. Simpson.

Several seasons began shakily, either because of an Act of God — "gales caused severe damage to the

gable end of the building, necessitating a complete rebuild" — or because of acts of goddesses: "our autumn season got off to a fraught start when we learned that *Private Lives* was unavailable, owing to Joan Collins's touring production." And there are reports of competition triumphs, great and small: one company carried off both the "Pat Phoenix Cup" from the Greater Manchester Drama Federation, and the *Bury Times* award for the "best cup of tea served at any theatre in the Bury area".

Amateurs still possess the vital ability to laugh at themselves — not a trait invariably encountered on the professional boards. Here is the Lancaster Footlights Club, puzzling over its audience surveys. "They seemed to prove nothing conclusive about the preferences of

our audiences, but did show that our biggest fans are women aged 50 and over. An explanation of this is eagerly awaited."

What of the taste in plays? In some respects the amateurs mirror the typical fare of the professional rep theatre in the regions. Ayckbourn is far ahead of the field with 27 productions; John Godber second with 19. That figure was collated before the LTG's coup last October, of mounting 50 simultaneous productions of Godber's *Happy Families*, commissioned with British Telecom sponsorship: "the biggest premiere in theatrical history".

Shakespeare, long at the top of the table, slips to third place (*Macbeth* being most popular);

and there were only four other pre-1800 English plays performed in the whole LTG list. Yet some intrepid amateurs tackled Strindberg, Ibsen, Molière, Brecht, Chekhov and O'Neill. Why do they do it? Clearly they love the theatre; perhaps the more fanatic are obsessed with the whole "putting on a play" experience. That possibly explains why, in the list of most performed plays, the first (Harris's *Stepping Out*), second (Ayckbourn's *Chorus of Disapproval*) and joint third (Frayn's *Noises Off*) are shows about people putting on shows. Good to know that the smell of the greasepaint still exerts its magical hold.

● The Yearbook of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, available from the guild at 19, Abbey Park Road, Grimsby DN32 0HF (0472 343424).

Band in charge

JAZZ RECORDS

Abbey Lincoln, featuring Stan Getz, You Gotta Pay The Band (Verve/Gitanes Jazz 511-110)
Billie Holiday: The Complete Original American Decca Recordings (GRP 26012)

WHATEVER else might be said about it, Abbey Lincoln's second album for Verve at least bears an appropriate title. It is not often that musicians of the calibre of Stan Getz, pianist Hank Jones and bassist Charlie Haden are gathered together in the same studio as sidemen.

They perform with all the aplomb that we have come to expect. Getz, who finally succumbed to cancer within four months of this session, carves out one exceptional solo after another. While the timbre may sometimes be harsher than usual, the underlying lyricism is still instantly recognisable. Jones, who seldom seems to get the credit he deserves, is the sort of energetic but sensitive accompanist that singers dream of working with.

On the other hand Lincoln — singer, actress, activist and the former Mrs Max Roach — will provoke mixed reactions. True, she is an individualist who, like Betty Carter, could hardly be mistaken for anyone else; her experience in acting lends dramatic colour to each song. But her thick, husky delivery has its limitations, especially when matched with her penchant for lumbering tempos and her unorthodox sense of pitch.

There are times — as on her recent tribute to Billie Holiday — when she makes the criticisms appear irrelevant. It could be argued that she is at her most persuasive in concert rather than in the studio. There are passages here where singer and song are well matched: the pathos of "Brother Can You Spare A Dime?" offers an example. On other selections, especially those where Lincoln has supplied the lyrics, you find yourself waiting for Getz or Jones to make their entry.

At the time of her small group and orchestral recordings for the American Decca label — between 1944 and 1950 — Billie Holiday's voice still sounded relatively untainted by drug abuse. The diligently assembled two-disc set, an essential purchase for collectors, includes striking versions of "Lover Man", "Don't Explain" and "My Man". Even some of the more lachrymose string arrangements cannot detract from the haunting tone of Holiday's voice.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

CLIVE DAVIS

Engaging nincompoop

THEATRE
A Woman is a Weathercock
Pentameters, Hampstead

NATHAN FIELD is reputed to have created the role of Oedipus, when he acted with the King's Men in 1604. He was then 16 years old. Unlike Master Betty two centuries later, he did not vanish into obscurity with adolescence but became one of the most popular actors of his day. Ben Jonson's favourite and a scallywag.

Putting the choirboy behaviour of his Chapel Royal days behind him, he fathered an illegitimate child on the Countess of Argyll and turned dramatist. He wrote this play when he was 22 and made amends for his presumed criticism of women in a later comedy.

Like so many of the works of the lesser Jacobean, *Weathercock* has lain unperformed for well over 300 years. Though Graham Watt's revival for his newly-formed Trampolines Productions shows Field's understanding of feminine psychology to be meagre, he clearly knew how to shape a drama and weave three or four plots in a whole. Better still, his lolling young knight, Sir Abraham Ninny, is a lovely comic creation, absurd yet unexpectedly revealed to possess courage and principles.

Pentameters Theatre is on the first floor of the Three Horseshoes, Hampstead, where the odour of wet cement drifts up the stairs from the almost refurbished pub below. The stage itself, unusual in a pub theatre, is raised and trapdoors open to reveal a sunken bed, a treasure chest and a small pond where characters peer at their reflections and discover they are better-looking than they dared to think.

The plot concerns the three



Not suited: Nicola Branson and Malcolm Freeman

daughters of Sir John Worldly (Colm O'Neill in good voice) who have each wavered in their choice of husband. The six suitors are involved in escapades that lead to wedding-day upsets, denunciations and a duel between Grant Russell's bitter Captain and Keith Goozee's resourceful young merchant, most imaginatively staged in front of the audience, round behind the seats and up ladders. Fairbanks style.

The misogynist rant of Scudmore, rejected by his Bellafront (Nicola Branson), is the play's weakness, performed here by a tight-lipped Malcolm Freeman. His marvellous variety of expression and there is altogether too much of it. Field's strength lies in his comic observation of a scheming underclass, notably Pendant, whose name conveys his character as a hanger-on. Acutely played by Paul Ritter, he comes across as a sort of Blackadder with a sour plum in his mouth.

The newly-knighted Ninny

is Pendant's gull — a nincompoop, certainly, hung about with love-tokens, but Angus Barnes reveals his endearing enthusiasm, the sincerity of his struggle to improve the scansion of his dreadful sonnets, and a painting eagerness for life that makes him wholly engaging.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Part choral masque, part ballet, part music for recitation, Stravinsky's *Persephone* is as amphibious as its heroine between worlds, between the theatre and the concert hall. But the score spends most of its time on the shelf.

Stravinsky wrote it for a stage production, with its sequence of luminous hymns and interludes to be danced under the supervision of two living statues: an actress-reciter as *Persephone* and a tenor as her priest, Covent Garden used to do an Ashton version occasionally. And as Stravinsky recognised, parts of the piece do sound as if something ought to be going on. As he also recognised, it could do with new words: Gide's rhymes are leaden, the long speeches more Alma Tadema than Bonteddi.

The music, though, is full of great ideas waiting to break free, as BBC forces under David Atherton demonstrated on Wednesday (Festival Hall/Radio 3). Some of these constrained arrows point to other works: the wonderful sharp tonic summons at the start, for instance, joining women's voices to a jangle of piano-percussion noise as at the beginning of Stravinsky's other choral ballet, *Les noces*, or the still shimmering harmony of the close, recalling the *Symphony of Psalms*.

However, *Persephone* was as much a one-off as everything else Stravinsky wrote. There is nothing quite like the tenor solo, much of it chanting around a high monotone in the manner of a Russian deacon: John Aler did it here with a ringing thrill. Also unique is the grace of the music for women's and children's voices, beautifully sung by the BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Chorus and New London Children's Choir.

The piece is above all, of course, a wonder of orchestral colour, and this performance fairly tumbled and glowed, from the grand peal of bell sounds at the main climax to the judicious matching of piano and wind at the start of the second scene, so that oboes and horns seemed to bloom out of the resonance, or from the exquisite companionship of soft string ensembles to the fierce racket when *Persephone* is restored to earth. One was glad, too, of a light-footed narrator in Laurence Bouvard.

If any work of Stravinsky's could rival *Persephone* for being neglected, it would be his other story of a trip to Hades, *Orpheus*, written 13 years later in 1947. This time there is no problem of genre: the score is for a normal orchestra and works perfectly well as a concert piece. It

Sympathy brings out heroine's best

CLASSICAL MUSIC

probably gets overlooked largely because it always has been. Once again Atherton and the BBC Symphony Orchestra brought a dusty score spectacularly to life.

Of course, playing the work from strength did not mean missing its special strain and fragility, the way lines are teased into aching angular shapes, so that each note seems to have been placed with care. Nor did it mean missing the atmosphere of regret and remembrance that hangs about the piece, and that was present especially here in the slow falling harp scales, like dry teardrops, and in the playing of oboes and trumpet. But there was room too for a wrenching sacrificial dance.

The day before, in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, had come another lively evening, from the young German pianist Lars Vogt. Someone who builds a programme out of late Haydn, late Beethoven and late Brahms is obviously serious, but there is nothing at all pretentious in Vogt's playing: his performances came as glasses of cool mineral water, pure and refreshing.

JOHN HIGGINS

Cast in roistering mould

OPERA

Benvenuto Cellini
Grand Théâtre,
Geneva

BERLIOZ's *Benvenuto Cellini* closes with that statue of Perseus, clutching the severed head of Medusa, arising from the sculptor's furnace. Any opera company rash enough to embark on the opera without a tenor sufficiently robust to carry the long and high-lying title role or without the resources to stage the Roman Carnival, which provides the score's best known music, is likely to have its own head chopped off. These are two good reasons why the work is so rarely performed, despite the continuing wave of affection for Berlioz.

Geneva answers both demands triumphantly. Francesca Zambello, who proved herself something of a showgirl with the Earls Court *Tosca* provides spectacle in plenty and, when *Cellini* turns more serious, offers insights on the artist as hero, a subject very dear to the heart of Berlioz. Cellini, like Puccini's *Tosca*, sings that he lives through love and art and, like *Tosca*, he becomes a murderer in Rome. Unlike *Tosca*, he lives to tell the tale. Chris Merritt, in a grandiose performance, makes it clear that Cellini will win his girl, create a masterpiece and generally sail away on clouds of glory.

Deborah Riedel, an Australian soprano whose coloratura runs show hints of the young Sutherland but with a sumptuousness of voice that suggests a *Tenhäuser* Elisabeth in the making, is an outstanding Teresa. Her fellow countryman, Jeffrey Black, makes Fieramosca a redoubtable rival to Cellini, even when stripped of his horse.

Merritt's Cellini, bearded and burly, carries none of the aristocracy of Nicolai Gedda, who made this part so much his own in the Seventies. Instead he begins as a roisterer surrounded by a pack of roaring boys (expertly cast) for assistants. Only after the death of Pompey is there a glimpse of Cellini the artist, as John Macfarlane neatly switches his carnival set into a metallic workshop. Here Perseus, watched by the Pope (a rare and welcome European appearance from The Mer's Paul Plishka), emerges from the midst of more smoke and red flame than was ever seen in Niebelheim. An apology was made on behalf of Merritt for indisposition. No need: a few notes excepted, he scaled the heights like the simple shepherd for whom Cellini expresses envy in his great aria, "Sur les monts les plus sauvages".

There were some judicious cuts, over which there can be little complaint, as Berlioz's score is rather more leisurely than the timeable Pope set Cellini to create his Perseus. Under John Nelson's exuberant conducting Berlioz's artist-hero infuses life into all those around him, except, of course for poor slaughtered Pompey. Tonight's performance goes out live to 24 countries, courtesy the EBU, including the UK via Radio 3 (7pm). Time in.

JOHN HIGGINS



Grandiose sculptor: Chris Merritt in the title role

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Frances Bissell, The Times cook, salutes the Italians' love of cooking and eating, and their willingness to pass the secrets on

The unselfconscious familiarity with food and the willingness of restaurant staff to share their knowledge is one of the things that draw me back to Italy. From the famous restaurants of Milan and Rome to the simplest local trattoria, everyone is an expert. They can tell you how to make a pasta sauce, give you a fool-proof risotto recipe, describe how balsamic vinegar is made, introduce you to the local liqueurs, debate the merits of *zampone over cotecchino*, and, above all, take pleasure in your pleasure in the food you are eating. Nothing is too much trouble.

In one restaurant, the *maitre d'hôtel* wheeled a trolley to the table containing large white bowls of raw vegetables and salad leaves, several different bottles of olive oil and more of vinegars. As we were in the Fini in Modena, several of these bottles contained their own balsamic vinegar. The vegetables were not sliced or shredded, but were whole carrots, heads of celery, bulbs of fennel, different red chicories, all in impeccable crisp condition, simply washed and trimmed. We ate the best salad ever.

In the busy restaurant, the *maitre* took 15 minutes to prepare a salad, slicing the celery and the fennel, breaking up the chicory and teasing out the rocket, and piling the salad into two deep square bowls. He then mixed a simple dressing. Yet another *maitre* mixed a simple dressing of extra virgin olive oil, sea salt, black pepper and balsamic, which he then folded into the salad. It was a joy to watch this artist at work and then eat what he had created; the celery and fennel were sweet and crisply fresh, the rocket peppery and the chicory the perfect bitter counterpoint.

One irresistible dish at Fini is *pasticcio ai tortellini*, a sweet short-crust pastry pie filled with

tortellini in a cream sauce and baked. To make at home, though, it is a feast for high days and holidays, as it is rather time-consuming. Much easier is the tagliatelle recipe created by Nonna Oditia, who with her husband Telesforo Fini founded the restaurant, from humble beginnings as a small food shop with a kitchen at the back. The shop is still there, next to the restaurant in Piazza San Francesco.

The risotto and the breakfast recipes were given to me by Signor Cattani, who makes balsamic vinegar at the Casa del Balsamico on the outskirts of Modena. He showed me how balsamico is made and aged in a succession of small barrels. It will keep almost indefinitely — he showed me a bottle, of which I was allowed to draw the cork and smell, which had been made by an ancestor in the 18th century.

A little balsamico goes a long way: I use it in warm sauces, such as the one described below, sparingly in salad dressings, and the older, thicker (and more expensive) *balsamico tradizionale* I sprinkle on Parmesan cheese.

Italians are lucky in having both a wealth of Mediterranean fruit and vegetables very early in the year, and crisp northern vegetables from the Veneto. In early January, the *menzetto del erbe* in Bologna was piled high with several varieties of oranges, lemons and citrons from Sicily, as well as artichokes and courgettes from the south. In Bologna we ate the vegetables in the classic *fritto miso*; in Rome, sliced and grilled, or in the case of artichokes, deep fried and then smashed flat in the Roman Jewish dish of *carciofi alla giudia* (I will give the recipe for this dish in the spring, once the price of artichokes has come down a little).

I recommend grilled vegetables as a starter, particularly if you have a ridged, cast-iron grill or

griddle, which gives a charcoal-striped effect to the vegetables.

Grilled vegetables

Aubergines: Slice them (not too thinly) lengthways. Salt lightly, as this softens them. They do not need salting to "disgorge", or draw out their bitterness, since modern Dutch aubergines are without bitterness. Leave them for 30 minutes or so and then rinse and dry them thoroughly. Brush with extra virgin olive oil and put them on the grill, which has been lightly brushed with oil, and then heated thoroughly. Turn and grill them on the other side until done.

Courgettes: Slice and wipe them. Brush with olive oil and grill on both sides. Like the aubergines, they are easier to handle if sliced lengthways and not too thin.

Peppers: Quarter them lengthways and remove the seeds and pith. Put them, skin side down, on the grill and once the skin has loosened, as the pepper cooks, peel off the skin and then grill on the other side.

Potatoes: These are remarkably nice grilled. Par boil them in water (or, even better, in stock), drain, dry, brush with oil and grill both sides. Slices of peeled celeriac will cook in the same way, as will slices of kohlrabi.

Note: The vegetables can be served with a scattering of sea salt, a little more olive oil and, if you like, a splash of lemon juice, vinegar or balsamico.

THIS country breakfast also makes a very good lunch or quick supper. In Italy, it would not be the first meal of the day, which would be coffee and bread or a sweet bun, but taken at about 10am after working for a couple of hours.

Colazione alla contadina
(serves 1 generously)
2-3 rashers of streaky bacon, smoked or unsmoked
1 shallot or small onion, or spring onions
2 free-range eggs
1 tsp balsamic vinegar

Remove the rind from the bacon and peel and thinly slice the onion (or trim and chop the spring onions). Place bacon and onion in a small frying-pan and cook first on a low heat, then higher to cook the bacon, but without burning the onion. Crack two free-range eggs and slide them carefully into the pan without breaking the yolks. Cook the eggs until done to your liking and add a spoonful of balsamic vinegar before sliding the contents of the pan, now held together by the egg white, on to a heated plate. Serve immediately.

Tagliatelle a la Giuditta

(serves 4)

1 small onion or shallot, peeled and finely chopped
1 1/2oz/40g butter
4lb/110g piece of raw ham, such as Parma or San Daniele
4lb/110g fresh tomato sauce
pepper
14oz/400g fresh tagliatelle
3oz/85g Parmesan cheese

Gently fry the onion in butter until

soft. Cut the ham into small dice and cook it with the onions for a few minutes. Add the tomato sauce and cook gently for about half an hour, seasoning to taste with pepper. Cook the pasta, drain it, and stir into the sauce, adding the Parmesan. Serve immediately.

Risotto nero al balsamico

("black" risotto with balsamic vinegar)
(serves 4-6)

3oz/85g butter
1 small onion or shallot, peeled and chopped
1 bay leaf
small sprig of rosemary
10oz/280g arborio or other risotto rice
1pt/570ml stock (boiling)
4pt/430ml barolo or cabernet wine (boiling)
freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Melt half the butter in a heavy sauté pan and fry the onion until transparent. Add the herbs and rice and, when coated with butter, pour on a ladle or two of boiling stock. When this has been ab-

sorbed, add half the boiling wine and then the rest when the first batch has been absorbed. Stir fairly frequently and continue adding liquid until the rice is cooked to your liking. Just before serving, in heated bowls, stir in the rest of the butter and the grated Parmesan cheese.

Zabaglione al balsamico

(sabayon sauce with balsamic vinegar)
(serves 4)

2 free-range egg yolks
2tbsp balsamic vinegar

Put a bowl over a pan of simmering water, without letting it touch the water. Whisk the egg yolks in the bowl with the balsamic vinegar until thick and smooth. Serve hot. This is exceptionally good with grilled fish or chicken.

A hollandaise can be made by whisking in cubes of chilled butter until amalgamated into a thick glossy sauce. Both sauces are also very good with grilled or steamed vegetables.

The French strike back — at a price

Good news at last for British drinkers, now that the Nicolas wine chain from France is mounting an offensive on our shores.

The 300-store Nicolas franchise has impressive buying power, a first-class computerised purchasing and distribution system, and is far closer to the source than British buyers could ever be.

The Nicolas buying team is based in Paris, which is a short, high-speed train journey from France's main wine-producing regions.

Another of the company's great strengths is its style and service: qualities in which British wine shops are notoriously deficient. Walk into its shop at 98 Holland Park Avenue in west London and see for yourself. Its spacious, air-conditioned, well-lit interior almost made me feel I was back in the Place de la Madeleine: superior French style is hard to put your finger on, but we all know it when we see it.

Unlike the English, if they put their mind to it the French offer quick, attentive service. Happily, all four Nicolas outlets here are run by Nicolas-trained, French-born *caviste* managers whose authentic Gallic service includes free,



A French wine chain is about to invade our high streets, says Jane MacQuitty

expert gift wrapping of even the cheapest bottle.

The French only buy after much conversation and contemplation and these spacious shops have been built with this in mind.

Started by Etienne Nicolas, who opened his first shop in Paris in 1822, the company has a head start over the competition. Best known in the old days for selling cheap, returnable litre bottles — and for Nectar, its moustached and red-nosed cartoon character — the Nicolas image and range has changed. Family owned until 1984, when Rémy Martin took over for four years, Nicolas is now owned by Castel Frères.

This Bordeaux-based firm of *negociants* is better known for its *vins de table* than its *grands vins*. But Nicolas, in addition to its

everyday bottles, now offers a list of 1,000 different fine wines going back to a 1900 Chateau Margaux, plus top wines from first-class vintages since then, including a particularly good run of 1960s, 1970s and 1980s wines.

However, before you visit your nearest Nicolas branch, there is one old canard that needs dispatching.

The UK wine traders' survival has always depended on their ability to buy knowledgeably, competitively and well. Never having produced much wine of our own has meant that we have always had to import large quantities. Fortunately for UK drinkers this competitive and reasonably expert wine-tasting and buying tradition is still with us. Regular visitors to France know that you drink better, cheaper and more adventurously in this country than in France.

I may grumble that our wine shops do not do a good enough job, but compared to what goes on in France outside the Nicolas empire, UK wine suppliers look positively heroic.

Gallic smugness and parochial chauvinism (in Bordeaux they only drink bordeaux; in Burgundy, burgundy), has produced few Frenchmen with good, all-round knowledge of their country's wines: fewer still with any sort of global perspective. Still, if French traders are narrow-minded, their customers are often worse.

Despite the many publicised blind taste-offs between the best of French and California wines, the latter does not sell, even in Paris. As Will's, the English-owned but Paris-based wine bar and restaurant group, complains, its monthly sales of California wines only ever rise above one bottle when a special tasting or promotion is on.

Apart from the convenience of the nearest Nicolas store, the average Frenchman would rather belt off down the motorway twice a year in search of the nearest *verre direct* sign than shop at his local wine merchant or supermarket. Others belong to groups who every year buy wine in bulk and distribute it among themselves; many families buy barrels of wine for everyday drinking and bottle it in the garage.

Nicolas in London also suffers from this French-is-best syndrome. There are precious few non-French wines on its shelves and those that there are, such as



Fresh face: Adrian Lowe, co-manager of Nicolas in west London

Best Nicolas buys

● 1991 Chateau Fondarzac, Entre Deux Mers J.C. Barthe £4.20. Heaps better than the average Entre Deux Mers and so it should be at this price. Enjoy Fondarzac's lime juice-like fruit as an aperitif, or with chicken or fish.

● 1989 Chateau, Domaine de Beausséjour Gerard Chaveyres £6.10. This Chateau's rich, ripe, musky scent and taste is typical of a fine, red Loire and blessed with lots of deep, grassy fruit.

● 1988 Réserve de la Maison Nicolas £4.50. Nicolas's basic Bordeaux Rouge with its delicious, juicy, herbaceous cassis and raspberry fruit shows just what they are capable of. A Nicolas star.

● 1990 Cotes du Rhône, Réserve des Roques £4.35

Again an excellent Nicolas purchase from a frequently disappointing French appellation. Des Roques' sweet, fruity, peppery palate and vivid crimson-purple colour is what Cotes du Rhône should be and rarely is. Great winter drinking.

The four Nicolas branches are at 98 Holland Park Avenue, W11; 282 Old Brompton Road, SW5; 6 Fulham Road, SW3; and 157 Great Portland St, W1.

1988 Cosme Palacio (£6.95 here, £4.49 at Oddbins) and 1987 Pesquera (£13.70 here, £9.49 for the 1987 and '88 vintage at Oddbins) are over-priced.

Even Nicolas's excellent collection of obscure country wines, such as Savoie, Bugey, Jurançon and Tursan, are more expensive than they should be.

This is due to the company's daft pricing policy. Identical to that of France apparently, but with 90p duty and a 10p or so transport charge slapped on to every bottle. This means that modest and medium-priced Nicolas wines, such as the red 1989 Maitre d'Estournel (£5.85 here, £4.25 at Oddbins) and 1989 Mouton Cader (£7.25 here, Sainsbury's

carries the '88 for £5.89) are prohibitively expensive.

However, Nicolas's more costly French wines, such as its superior bordeaux chateau wines, are cheaper here than in France due to the higher French VAT rate on more expensive products.

Apart from the best Nicolas buys listed below, shop there for some handsome French wine and spirit gift packs and ideas, such as the Pouisse Rapière set and specialist French bottles like Floc de Gascogne and vintage armagnac, all rarely seen elsewhere.

Who knows, with a more realistic pricing policy, Nicolas's little three-wheel *tripporteur* vans may be as common a sight in Britain as they once were in Paris.

KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

Beefing up meals

Moscow's recent distaste for British beef had Lynda Chalker hastening eastwards with threats of "long-term repercussions" if they didn't eat their words, and the beef. But I remain unpatriotically convinced that the comrades were right to fear hunger less than mad cow disease.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy is one of a group of degenerative brain disorders which can cross species barriers. It is not proven that it could jump from infected animals to man, but neither is it proven that it cannot: the incubation period is so long that it could be years before we know.

The organisms responsible appear to be extremely resistant to heat, and extremely long lived. It is now certain that cats have been infected through infected meat, and since calves born to infected cows after the suspected feed ingredients were banned have developed the disease, it appears to be transmissible through the placenta.

Calves of infected mothers, incidentally, are not banned from sale as meat animals, as long as they don't manifest the symptoms themselves — which they are not likely to do, given the possible length of incubation for the disease. These, plus the worn-out dairy cows who go into mince, burgers and pies, make up about 60-70 per cent of British beef. Small wonder the Russians had doubts.

Undoubtedly the BSE "scare" has been a disaster for farmers, particularly dairy farmers, whose understandable outrage has virtually gagged Maff on the subject. Unfortunately we have no proof at all that it is only a "scare". This is regrettable because beef rearing in Britain is overall more humane than, say, pig or poultry rearing. Sadly many people frightened off beef have turned to white meat, which usually means broiler chicken.

If you want to eat beef, think about its rearing. Even though the use of meat by-products in cattle feed is now forbidden, it is

safer, as well as kinder to cattle, not to eat meat from animals which graze little or not at all. Imported ranch beef, at the cheaper end of the scale, fulfils that criterion.

Comparatively few cattle of specifically beef breeds have developed the disease. Animals of this sort from grazed suckler herds produce the best quality and safest meat, since BSE mainly hit the dairy sector. Go for Sainsbury's Traditional or Asda's Conservation Grade, from farms where all animals have traceable pedigrees.

For superb meat, which because of strict feeding standards in force long before BSE could be years before BSE

is virtually proofed against it, use one of the following: beef — Pure Meat Co (0647 40321), Ian Miller's Organic Meat (0738 85498), Heal Farm (07695 20777), venison — Highland Venison (0479 2255).

If you're still worried about beef but like red meat, remember that most beef recipes are equally de-

licious with full flavoured venison from wild red deer. This recipe works with either meat.

Carbonade of beef (or venison)
(serves 4)

1lb diced stewing beef/venison
1tbsp flour
1tbsp dripping
2 large onions
2 crushed cloves garlic
1 carrot
1 stalk celery
1pt stout or stout/water
salt, pepper, nutmeg, bouquet garni
1tsp vinegar

3-4 thick slices bread (walnut or herb bread is best) spread with grainy mustard

Toss the meat in the flour, brown in dripping with sliced onions. Add everything except bread, cover and simmer for two to three hours on 150C, gas mark 3. Push mustardy bread into casserole and allow to rise. Raise heat to 165C and cook uncovered till top is crusty — about 30 minutes.

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On south London's forested slopes

Jonathan Meades meets a man from the motor trade

Forest Hill is unusual among London suburbs in living up to its name. At Chalk Farm there is no chalk, no farm. At Gospel Oak there is no oak and no gospel, though there was an interesting crucifixion in the late 1960s. And show me the shepherd with the bush — actually, don't. All the parks are fibs too. Tufnell, Drayton, Raynes, Eden — Eden! But Forest Hill breaks the mould. It is, indubitably, very hilly, and it's fairly sylvan too; not that trees are the *sine qua non* of a forest: to judge by the New Forest and Wyre Forest, the distinguishing features of this sort of scape are state-of-the-art picnic areas, log cabin lavatories and middle-ranking executives exercising droll de seigneur in Vauxhall Carlton, in car-parks at lunchtime.

Forest Hill has none of these features. But it does have the most extensive views in Greater London, and many immodest villas of the 1860s and 70s, and a covetable flat-roofed house with a conning tower whose inhabitants can see as far as Mill Hill in one direction and Dartford in the other. Then there is the Horniman Museum — one of the very few public buildings in Britain in an untempered Arts and Crafts idiom: that makes it historically notable, but it is also a most lovable design, a dreamlike delight for travellers on the South Circular, and the various collections put together by Mr Horniman of the tea firm are odd, wayward, funny. Worth the trip. Which is what I hoped I'd think about the Dewaniam Tandoori Restaurant half a mile east along the South Circular, round some sharp bends and down some precipitous slopes and under the railway bridge.

I owe my knowledge of this abundantly neon establishment to *The Curry Club's Cobra Indian Lager Good Curry Restaurant Guide* edited by Pat Chapman, "a Londoner and a curricular... the country's foremost expert in the subject". The man with the cast-iron colon brings out his guide every few years, a monument to his



monomania and chilli-driven eccentricity. Its obsessions border on the surreal. Like *Exchange and Mart*, it tells you an awful lot about Britain. The writing is, let us say, home-made — but so much the better for that: "Mr and Mrs Durrani's first Restaurant here was the Maharajah, a 10 pints and Vindaloo shop opened in the late 1950s. In 1975 the Durrani's became managers at the Lion of Asia in partnership with a Mr Varook. Mr Durrani known to all as Khan opened Khans, Brorouh Road in 1978 and the Khan Tandoori, Linthorpe Road, in 1983. In late 1985 they bought the Lion and also called that the Khan Tandoori... the quantities are frequently meagre. I often complain which does improve the situation for a bit." And so on for almost 300 pages of tiny type. The word Restaurant is invariably given an initial majuscule, and apostrophe's are used wherever possible. The punctuation, is weird.

As a utile guide it is no more or less accurate than any other — but utility is not the point; though when one comes across an entry for somewhere such as the Dewaniam of SE23 it tempts one to investigate. The USP here is the materials the place uses: duck,

pheasant, hare, venison, quail, brains, lobster. Items, in other words, not habitually associated with sub-continental cooking. Mr Chapman mentions "authentic Indian recipes" and he may be right. I don't know.

I do know, though, that a venison dish called *galassi* is not worth schlepping across London for. The meat had insufficient flavour for its source to be identifiable. According to the menu it is marinated in wine, vinegar, olive oil etc, then cooked with cream and sultanas. I'll take their word for it: the overall impression was of a curry thickened with nuts. I'm no doubt quite wrong. Brain masala was much better — delicate, as much herby as spicy, pleasantly savoury. The nan bread is light and delicious. There's good lassi, and you can finish with mango kulfi.

The place is a shrine to the fading polychromy of silk flowers. One boisterous table belched with such frequency that I began to suspect they were communicating in some sort of ventral code. At another table a man told his lady friend: "Curries, curries. I won't go near them. Stuff curries." Why then, I wondered, have you brought your vivacious Raffles-

smoking sometime popsy here? He answered: "Dixon's, now. I'll buy from Dixon's. But Curry's, never. They might be owned by Dixon's but I'll never ever buy anything from them." This choosy shopper then reverted to his specialist subject, motor cars.

Nearly everyone in southeast London is in the motor trade. It's to do with the lack of Underground lines, I guess. When I lived in Camberwell I was the only person in the street without a couple of old smokers on the pavement with prices and phone numbers in the windscreen. They even appear to name their restaurants after automotive types. I imagined *La Coupée* in Herne Hill was a bad spelling mistake with wrong gender thrown in. Not so. *La Coupée* is the proper name of a causeway on Sark, which is where the chef comes from. Plentiful pictures of that island are provided on the walls. This is a pretty little bistro which does good business with those rare southeast Londoners who don't own lock-ups. It's all pink and green with a generally bustling air.

The house's surprising speciality is tripe, prepared in the manner of Nice. Or so it is claimed. The sauce is based on tomato and includes carrots and olives; it's not too bad.

The trouble is the tripe itself, or rather the British butchery trade's way of (over) preparing it, of boiling it to death. It ends up as blubber. It's not an unpleasant dish but it's necessarily unlike the tripe you'll get in France or Italy or Spain, where the raw material is available in a more comestible state. Furthermore it is calf tripe rather than ox tripe which is used in those countries. Calf liver is cooked here with an onion gravy; the offal was more grey than pink. An outstandingly well-flavoured piece of beef was sauced with a so-called Bearnaise. Whatever it was — and it wasn't, again, unpleasant — it was not a Bearnaise sauce. It reminded me of a lemon meringue pie filling. Vegetables included rather watery cabbage with bacon and quite good chips. The wines include a decent Coteaux d'Aix called *Domaine les Bastides* and there is Italian beer. The service is unflaggingly cheery.

Dewaniam Tandoori Restaurant
133 Stanstead Road, London, SE23 (081-291 4778)
Lunch and dinner every day. £40 plus.

La Coupée
17 Half Moon Lane, London SE24 (071-737 1556)
Lunch Tues to Fri, dinner Tues to Sat. £50 plus.

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although they are intended to reflect value for money they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are, too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire. Never be afraid to complain. Phone first. It is not only discourteous but illegal to dishonour bookings that goes for restaurants as well as customers. J.M.

WATERSIDE

The Boat House
The Beetle and Wedge Hotel, Moulford, Oxfordshire (0491 651381)

A rather ramshackle group of buildings beside the river and attached to a modest hotel (which has its own, posher, restaurant under the same ownership). The cooking owes much to the tradition of Elizabeth David and to considered bistro practice. It is unerringly expert. Banal sounding things such as duck terrine are first rate. Rabbit sauté with lardons is unbelievably rich and delicious. The ham is as fine as you'll come across in Britain. Good puddings, charming service. £65 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

The River Café
Thames Wharf, Rainville Road, W8 (071-381 8824/353344)

The precursor of all "new wave" Italian cooking in London and still ahead of the pack. The utilitarian premises began life as a canteen for Sir Richard Rogers's practice and the straightforwardness that informed the enterprise from the outset has not been lost sight of. However, the premises have expanded and the cooking by Rose Gray and Lady Rogers has grown in confidence and expertise. It is now both inventive and sophisticated, pointing the way perhaps towards a new form of haute cuisine. Among many notable dishes from a changing menu are: sweetbreads with pancetta, sage and anchovies; bass which is grilled, then marinated, then roasted; squid with chilli and rocket; chicken with boiled garlic and parsley; turbot with a marvellous confection of peas, broadbeans, prosciutto and mint. The puddings include a lovely cake made with polenta and lemon. Fine Italian wines at all prices. £75 plus. Lunch every day, dinner Mon-Fri.

The Leatherer's Bowl
The Bridleway, Goring-on-Thames, Berkshire (0491 872667)

Easy-going and very pleasant riverside restaurant handsomely converted from a pub. In summer one can eat outside with the ducks and pleasure cruisers, in winter there is a choice of good-looking dining rooms. The cooking is strong on charring, steaming, abundant herbs and colourful assemblages of vegetables. It is not so strong on sauces — which are not part of Keith Read's idiom, nor on dressings. Tuna is served straight from the grill with a salad of rocket, marinated anchovies etc. Steamed chicken is stuffed with strips of pepper and courgette. The service is relaxed and friendly and efficient. £58. Lunch and dinner every day.

The Pier at Harwich
The Quay, Harwich, Essex (0253 241212)

Great view of the Stour and Orwell estuary, pleasant service, nice enough cooking which is at its best when not attempting to be flashy. The fish and shellfish are notably fresh. £50-£60. Lunch and dinner every day.

NOTABLE BUILDINGS

Woolley Grange
Woolley Green, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire (02216 47054773)

Good-looking Jacobean and early Victorian limestone house. Unusually for a "country house" joint it welcomes children. The cooking is, however, for adults. It's sophisticated, generally unflashy, sophisticated. Turbot and scallops with a squid ink sauce and dark grey pasta is as good to taste as it is to look at. Chicken and guinea fowl are gently and impressively sauced. The vegetables tend to be on the focal side but are, in compensation, served in copious quantities. Good puddings, poorly thought out wine list with very little to drink under £18. £75. Lunch and dinner every day.

The Leazes House
85 London Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 511921)

The novelist's house is a large tie-hung cottage. It's smart without flashiness, available, efficient. The cooking is painstakingly considered, well balanced, intensely flavoured but not over rich. Nor is it overdone — good ingredients are not drowned by heavy saucing. Hot sea bass pâté, pheasant with caps, hare with a remarkable juniper sauce and mace-steeped prunes, fish soup, mullet, veal with shallots, cream and vinegar — these are fine dishes. The wines are mostly French and not overpriced. £80. Lunch Tues-Sun, dinner Tues-Sat.

The Game Larder
New Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire (0264 810414)

An 18th-century brewhouse done up with ancient fixtures to look like a medieval hall. The cooking testers on the right side of adequate, the service is friendly; a good place to go in a large party. £60. Lunch Wed-Sun, dinner Tues-Sat.

The Oak Room
The Meridian, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-734 8000)

Fabulously opulent Edwardian baroque dining room with brilliant French cooking by David Chambers — feuilleté of turbot and salmon with lobster sauce, sea bass with a mousseline of foie gras and salmon, beef with lactarius mushrooms and spinach. There are rarely mistakes of either taste or technique, but portions tend to the miserly and mark-ups on the impressive wines are greedy. Nevertheless, the fines of London's grand hotel restaurants and an unmitigated treat — so long as you're not paying. £120. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

Lainston House
Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire (0962 865588)

Rather beautiful early 18th-century house in impressive parkland. The cooking is Anglo-French and competent but a bit lacklustre. The same might be said of the interior of the building and the service. £60. Lunch and dinner every day.

Kiwi fruit leaps from the sea

Over the past few months, a newcomer has appeared in the freezer compartments of the nation's supermarkets, an oriental-sounding beast by the name of hoki.

The arrival is due in large part to the salesmanship of Gillian Malcolm, a New Zealand-born speech therapist turned international fish trader (now the trading manager with an Aberdeen-based company). She managed a coup roughly on a par with enticing vegans to eat steak when she introduced hoki to fish shops around Aberdeen, an area where anything with fins means haddock, to the virtual exclusion of all else.

"Hoki the Noo", ran the tabloid headlines, irrespective of the fact that hoki rhymes with cocky and despite its Japanese-sounding name, comes from New Zealand.

All the publicity did not, however, spark the great leap forward in hoki sales Ms Malcolm was seeking. That, she said, would only come the day Marks & Spencer stocked it on the chill shelves alongside the cod and haddock.

That day has now come. M&S has just put hoki — not Ms Malcolm's, unfortunately — on trial in 25 selected stores throughout Britain.

Compared to its rivals, M&S came late to the fish. Sainsbury led the way a year ago, and Tesco, Waitrose and

Tasting and looking like cod, the hoki has a clear advantage — it is cheaper



Tipping the scales: hoki is making a strange name for itself

Gateway followed. Hoki, normally sold as breaded fillets, is now sold in an estimated 4,000 supermarkets throughout Britain.

Ms Malcolm, like her rival importer Charles Barila of Harvard Seafoods of Reading, in Berkshire, has spent three years convincing the

wholesale trade which supplies supermarkets that hoki is the wonderfish of the 1990s.

Their pitch has been relatively simple. Hoki looks, cooks and eats like cod, but it costs less. This week M&S was selling trial packs of hoki at £2.49 per pound, com-

pared with a normal price of £3.49 per pound for cod. But equally crucially for supermarkets and institutions such as health boards, the hoki importers have been able to guarantee supplies for months ahead, largely because of the highly organised New Zealand fishing industry.

Supply stability is almost more important than price," Mr Barila says. Supplies of home-caught cod and haddock are notoriously volatile.

Hoki means "return" in Maori. Between June and September the fish, which spends most of its life in the deep Hokitika Trench, to the west of New Zealand's South Island, appears in vast numbers.

Sliver-green along its back, with silvery sides and belly, it grows to more than 3ft long (cod can grow to 5ft).

Stock exploitation has been limited by the New Zealand government to 200,000 tonnes a year, of which the British market can handle only about 7,000 tonnes. The Americans have been eating it for years, the Japanese turn it into sashimi — a processed form of the fish whence crabsticks are born — and French demand in 1991 jumped by an extraordinary 80 per cent.

"I don't see why it shouldn't become as British as curry," Ms Malcolm says. "Call it the Kiwis' revenge."

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

Fast work with shellfish: mussels cooked with leeks and saffron

A HUGE steaming bowl of mussels is a treat on a cold night, provided that none of your guests is allergic to shellfish. It is a beautiful sight, the orange contrasting both with the pearly inside of the shell and the blue-black outer surface. And it smells good too.

This is a one-pot meal that requires no other cooked dishes. With some character to start with, salad, one or two interesting farmhouse cheeses and a fruit compote to finish, you have a feast. You need to spend time preparing the mussels and leeks, but cooking time is minimal, and you can get someone else to help with the salad and fruit.

It is always a good idea to ask if there is anything your guests cannot eat or drink. And if they are bringing someone else, it is up to them to ask their companion. Twice I have been caught out that way. The first incident was most curious, an aversion to melons and anything with melons in it.

The second was more understandable.



I had invited Madhur Jaffrey for dinner and asked her host to tell me in advance if there was anything she could not eat. "Oh, don't worry," I was told, "she's very well travelled, she can eat anything." One look at her face on that cold night when I brought out my steaming tureen told me that mussels were not one of her favourite things. Smoked salmon was a welcome standby.

To prepare the mussels, scrub under running water, knock off any barnacles as they can release sand into the finished dish, and discard any that remain open because they are dead. Dead mussels are dangerous because you do not know how long they have been dead.

Rinse the mussels, and put in a large lidded pot with cleaned, thinly sliced leeks, freshly ground pepper, half a pint of dry white wine and some saffron threads soaked in a little more white wine. Clamp the lid on, raise the heat, and cook for three to four minutes, shaking well to distribute the leeks and saffron.

Transfer the mussels to a large heated bowl or serve from the cooking pot. Discard any that remain closed. They too are probably dead. There will be plenty of juice with the mussels. I like to serve a basket of different breads and rolls with them.

FRANCES BISSELL

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BBC, "FOOD & DRINK"



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MAILLE

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Making a splash for charity

Swimmers of all ages and abilities are getting ready to take the plunge for the annual Swimathon. Jane Bidder reports

Six-year-old Sarah Barson of Malvern, Worcestershire, hopes to be the youngest swimmer in Britain's Swimathon charity event, which is to be held from March 5 to 8 at more than 250 pools throughout the country.

Anyone, regardless of age or experience, can enter the event, which was first staged six years ago to encourage more people to swim during the winter months.

That event proved so successful that the organisers (backed by BT, with Duncan Goodhew, the former Olympic swimmer, as president) now ask participants to press-gang sponsors into paying them per length, with the proceeds being shared by Mencap, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund.

This year, each entrant will aim to swim about 200 lengths. So far Sarah, who learnt to swim two years ago, has notched up only 30 lengths during her twice-weekly evening training sessions at her local pool.

"Sarah has already collected £85 of sponsorship," says her father, Brian, who paces protectively along the poolside by her. "It was her idea to take part because the money is going towards sick children and she recently lost a small friend through cancer."

Sarah, who is only 3ft 6in tall, says that even 30 lengths do not exhaust her. "I like going back and forth, because it doesn't tire me, although I can also do breast stroke and front crawl," she says. "Dad laughs because I talk quite a lot while swimming."

Sarah also says she doesn't feel the cold, although she's not averse to warming up with a cup of cocoa and some sweets from the pool machine after practice sessions.

In the West Country seven high school teams, plus a handful of teachers, will be competing against each other in the Swimathon at the Bath Sports and Leisure Centre. Julie Ashman, the bookings officer, hopes that the publicity the event attracts will encourage more teenage swimmers, who tend to drop out from 16 onwards after years of being dragged along to a pool at weekends by well-meaning parents.

"Teenagers seem to have other

interests nowadays," Ms Ashman says. "So maybe Swimathon will get them going again."

If you can't beat the kids, you could always join them, like Norman Tomlinson, an 80-year-old grandfather who is one of the oldest Swimathon entrants. Two of his grandchildren — Sebastian, ten, and Lee, 13 — and his 75-year-old wife Flora will be counting his lengths from the pool in Acton, west London.

Mr Tomlinson — who used to swim at another pool but stopped because it was "only 25 metres long" compared with Acton's 33 — only took up serious swimming in his sixties. He has been putting in 15 lengths every other day since last month, and intends building up to 75 or 80. "I practise late in the afternoon, after house painting or digging the garden," says Mr Tomlinson, now retired from a chemical manufacturing firm.

"I've also been having plenty of

soup and stewed-up chicken —

plus the odd glass of hot whisky at

night — to build up my strength."

Age, Mr Tomlinson says, does not

make him feel the strain, although in

the last year's Swimathon (when he

completed 75 lengths) he

confesses he felt "a few twinges"

towards the end of the session.

And no, he doesn't go in for those

fancy bikini pants. An old-fashioned

baggy pair of trunks is much more

comfortable, he says.

If your children do not want to

swim or volunteer as length

counters (to check how many

lengths each swimmer completes),

it is still worth going to your local

swimming baths to witness the

more eccentric entries.

The Lambert Loonies, a team of

five student nurses from Man-

chester, will be wearing Victorian

swimming dress at the Abraham

Moss sports centre. The costumes

in varying colours plus matching

caps — are being made by the

nurses, who claim their unwieldy

outfits will not stunt their perfor-

mance. "We have all been awarded

our gold life-saving medals for

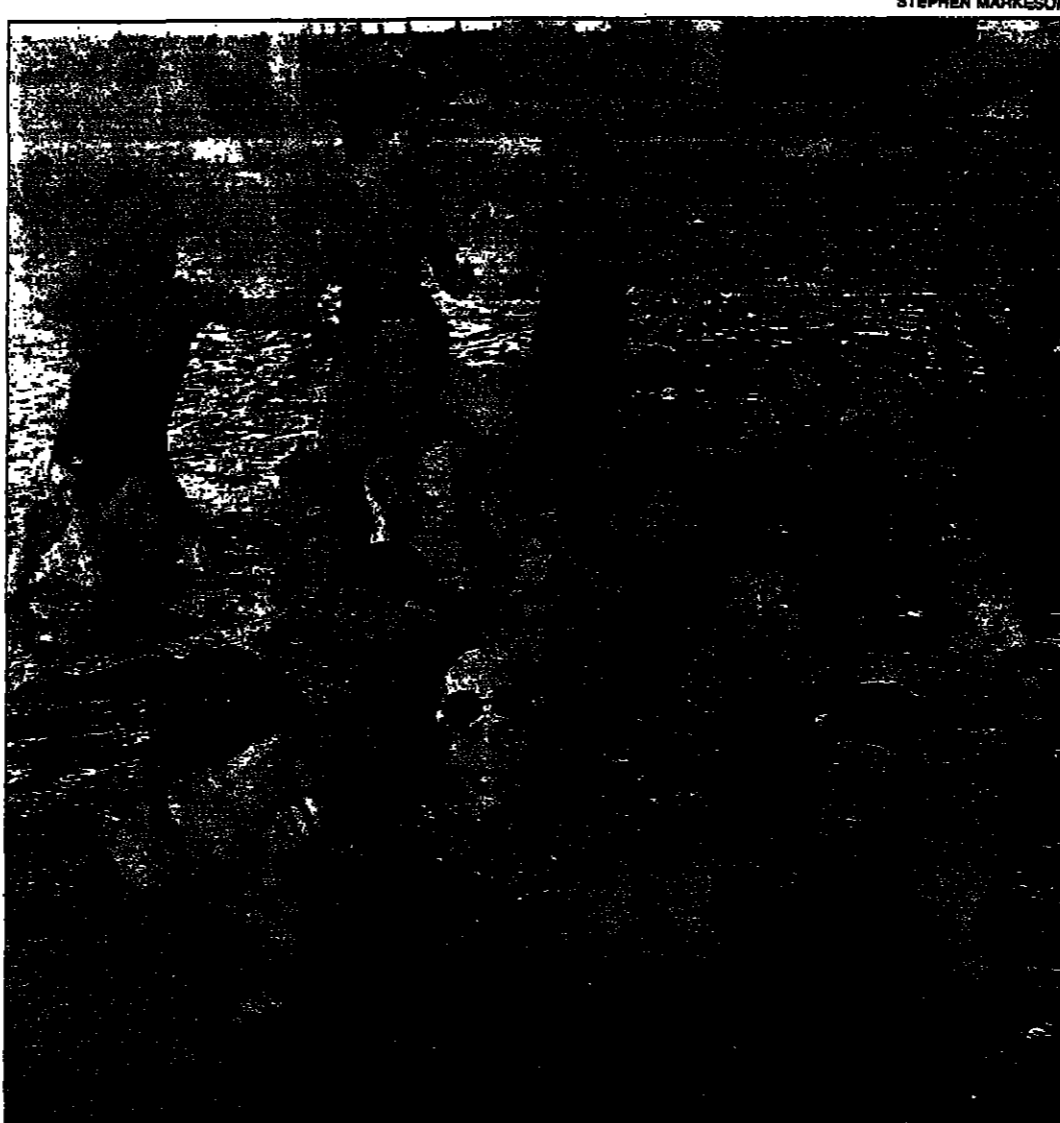
which you have to be able to swim

in pyjamas," says 22-year-old Sa-

rah Cryer.

Why Victorian dress? Just an

excuse for a bit of fun say the



Pooling their resources: some young swimmers get in training at St George's baths in east London

Lambert Loonies, who live in the Lambert nurses' home. If their caps get in the way, they will discard them midstream.

Miss Cryer, who prefers backstroke, is on a fat-free diet because she does not want to look "too big in my costume". She and her friends have already been practising three times a week and hope to attract an audience of patients and boyfriends.

In the small Suffolk village of Stradbroke, Andrew Chivers, a 23-year-old youth club helper, is planning a "hair-raising" spectacle before diving in to tackle 250 lengths. His boss at a nearby construction company has pledged £100 if he has his head shaved at the poolside. "I think I've got the face to carry it off," Mr Chivers says. "And I won't mind

people staring at me afterwards because it's all in a good cause."

Mr Chivers has already arranged for a local hairdresser to snip off his mousey brown locks, which are of average length and are usually trimmed every six weeks. However, if his hair fails to grow back? "I haven't thought of that — I sincerely hope it will..."

Another spectacular swim — known as "on the bottle" in nautical jargon — is open to spectators at Basildon's Gloucester Park pool, where a team of male aquaplane divers, each carrying a bottle of oxygen weighing 23 kilos, intend covering just over three miles.

Not to be outdone Sharon Merrett, a 32-year-old child minder and mother of three, will snorkel

for 50 lengths with two friends. "The biggest problem could be a crash diet before the big day — but I don't know if I'll get round to it. After all, it's a good laugh for charity, isn't it?"

Anyone wanting to swim in, or watch, a Swimathon should contact their local pool or leisure department for details. Volunteers are also needed to count lengths. All entries should be received by Monday.

EVENTS

LONDON

Greenwich playtime: Treasure hunt, knot-tying competitions, displays by marine and sea cadets, films and planetarium shows in the old observatory, and dressing-up sessions for younger children in the Queen's House. Christopher Columbus workshops Tues, Weds, Thurs. National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, SE10 0NB (081-858 4422). Mon-Sun Mar 1. Children free if accompanied by paying adult.

Kilburn care: Theatre Centre presents *A World Turned Upside Down*, devised by the Hijinx Theatre Company, for five to eight-year-olds and youngsters with learning difficulties.

Twelve Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 0JL (071-328 1000). Sat Mar 29, £2.25, child £1.25 (advance booking).

Caribbean workshops: Activity sessions for children aged seven and over, looking at the heroes and heroines of the Caribbean and learning about their impact on society and history. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, W8. Mon-Fri, 10.45am-noon and 1-2.15pm. Free. Further information and booking from the Education Centre on 071-603 4535, ext 283.

Half-term in the past: Family and children's activities based on the exhibition "What Is It?", revealing the past through old objects. Hands-on sessions and workshops. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2. Tues-Sat Mar 29. Further information, times and booking on 071-600 3699, ext 200.

Docklands display: Fresh from San Francisco, the "Art from the Exploratorium" exhibition explores science through the world of art with voice patterns, images lying in space, "touching" a tornado, and manipulating television images. The Roundabout Gallery, Cabot Place East, Canary Wharf, E14. Daily, 11am-7pm, until Mar 1. Free. Further information on 071-418 2418.

NATIONWIDE

Arundel sets: Discover more about the life of the badge. *Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust*, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 88355). Tomorrow 9.30am-5pm (last admission 4pm). £3.50, child £1.75.

Chestnut experts: Workshops, games and other activities all week at Fairley House, On Thursday, at Walsley Hall, Windmill Lane, Henry's Cat on stage in a 90-minute show for three to nine-year-olds. *Chestnut*, Herefordshire. Henry's Cat, Thurs 1.30pm and 2.30pm. £4.50, child £3.50. Free crèche. Further information from the John Warner Sports Centre (0992 28567).

Cholsey centenary: Celebration rides on the Cholsey and Walling-

ford Steam Railway, a Victorian fair with silver band, fairground organ and carousel, coconut shy, fire engine, miniature steam railway. *Cholsey station, 3m S of Wallingford, Oxfordshire*. Sat Mar 29, 11am-5pm. Further information from BR Link (Dina Leigh, 0734 579731).

Dursley workshops: Monday, art; Tuesday and Friday, pottery; Wednesday, juggling and circus skills; Thursday (for nine-year-olds and over), making a video. *Premis Arts Centre, Uley, Dursley, Glos*. Mon-Fri. Sessions 15-17.2. Check times and booking on 0453 860703.

Liverpool leaps: Halton Youth Dance Week presents workshops at Queen's Hall Studios, Widnes, Monday to Friday, for 12-year-olds and over. Focus On Youth Dance is



Exploring science through art at the Exploratorium

a half-term workshop at Southport Arts Centre, on Wednesday. *Liverpool, Widnes, Southport*. Mon-Sat. Halton Youth Dance (the Arts Unit, 051-424 2604). Southport Arts Centre (0704 540004).

Maidstone makes ready: Three activity sessions for eight to 12-year-olds: Monday and Wednesday, a day on the farm; feed animals, prepare hop-picking baskets or be a bird scarer; Tuesday, Kenish cookery and picture weaving. *Cobtree Museum of Kent Life, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone*. Kent. Mon-Wed, 10am-noon and 2-4pm. Wear outdoor clothing and take packed lunch. £2 per session, plus £1 deposit. Places limited, book on 0622 763936.

Waltham wander: A birdwatching walk for all the family to see

exploring birds.

Fisher's Green car park, Stubbins Lane, off the B194

Holyfield road, Waltham

Abbey, Essex. Tomorrow 2pm.

Further information on 0992

713838.

JUDY FROSHAUGH

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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All's well that pumps well in a time of drought

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

For an entire afternoon the farm took on the look of a Texan oilfield. Rangy, tanned young men arrived in their own trucks. Within moments their heavy arms had transformed a mass of steel piping into a drilling rig and our 19th-century farm was beginning to look like the scene of a 20th-century oil rush.

Before drilling, the rugged young men adjusted their helmets squarely on their heads. I did not have a helmet so I merely twiddled my flat cap. As the drill was lowered into the ground, I prayed we would not strike oil. What use would an oil fortune be to me if I had no drop of water with which to make a celebratory cup of tea?

We were drilling for water, deepening an existing well which for as long as anyone can remember has unfailingly provided this farm with water. But I have noticed that on occasions we were

drawing water from it faster than it was able to refill itself, and as this part of the world is heading for its driest winter in recent memory it seemed prudent to dig.

If you are in one of those parts of Britain that has been drenched since last August, you may find it difficult to believe that parts of the same islands are in a state of chronic drought. A month ago, in the middle of winter when you might expect the water reserves to be at their fullest, tenants vacated a cottage near here when their well ran dry. I have seen derelict villages on Greek islands abandoned when the springs failed, but never expected to see it on my own doorstep.

For such a vital operation, there seems to be little folklore connect-

ed with the digging of wells. We can read endless chapters on the wheelwright, the blacksmith or shepherd, but rarely a word on the mole-like creature who provided that without which no farm or community could have existed.

In his classic descriptions of pre-war East Anglian farming, Adrian Bell, tired of carrying water by horse from a pond, hired a man to dig a well for him. He worked by the light of a candle, one at the foot of the well where he dug and another halfway up to test for "bad air". During the digging he was warned by his doctor that old age was overtaking him and that he must "dig no more wells". Rather than leave a hole unfinished, he had a kitchen chair lowered down so that he could catch his breath



before he moiled further. Bell records that it is the farmer's privilege to descend the well when the digger has finished his work, but my diggers offered no such invitation and I was thankful. For three days the fresh water

flowed again, until one evening I turned the tap in the stable to mix feed for the pigs and not a drop came. Pressured by having to work at new depths, the ageing pump had taken early retirement. It needed more than a sit on a

kitchen chair, it needed an expert. We had no water on the farm.

The experience was sobering. Although we can manage with a drop for drinking and the most drain for washing, it cannot be explained to ewes who are feeding lambs that they must hang on until the pump man comes. So my wife fled into town, bought plastic bottles and caddied water from friends, then while I was snugly tucked up in bed she bravely went round the garden water butts at midnight with a bucket to refill the lavatory cisterns.

I rang another well engineer and expected a further assault with high-tech derricks and drilling apparatus. But when he arrived and immediately asked for a light for his candle, I knew I had found the right man for the job. He tied his spluttering light to a rope and lowered it to the bottom, and only when he had satisfied himself that there was no foul air

did he descend with his spanners to attack the pump. He tells me he is busy these days, deepening wells, trying to keep pace with increasing drought. I stayed on the surface, lowering cups of tea in the calf-feeding bucket. He did a well nearby, he said, expecting to go down only ten feet. It was 30 before he hit water.

The sound of the revitalised electric pump was like music chiming through the house. The troughs gurgled again, the taps sang. I know that electricity did not come to this farm until the 1950s and that all the water had to be drawn from the well by hand. There are aspects of 20th-century farming life that I despise but running water is not one of them.

If there is one sound I never want to hear again on this farm, it is the pathetic midnight scrape as my poor wife stumbles, bucket in hand, searching the butts for a drop of water.

JULIAN HERBERT

Country kids are in the pink

Foxhunting may be under siege, but new huntsmen are being introduced to it all over the country. Dea Birkett reports

Kristian MacDougall cuts a fine figure astride Hadley. Rider and horse are turned out impeccably. Kristian is a tweed hacking jacket, a cream lodhump, hunting whip and spotted stock (cravat). Hadley with elaborately plaited mane and groomed coat.

Kristian MacDougall is 13 years old, and Hadley is a small bay pony. Kristian is among 70 children, aged three to 16, who joined the Warwickshire hunt last week. After the chase the children's faces are flushed with excitement, their ponies' hair matted with mud and sweat.

Ellena Swift, aged seven, is a hunter of two years' experience. Her mount is Dougal, a sturdy Shetland pony.

These tiny figures, almost lost in the countryside they cover, are deemed to hold a mighty responsibility. At a time when the hunting fraternity feels more under threat than ever before in its history, these children could be seen as the guardians of its future.

"The children have got to learn about tradition," says David Forsyth, the district commissioner for the Warwickshire Pony Club. "This country is built on it. If young people maintain the hunting tradition, then the countryside will survive. They are our future."

For the children hunting is a simple adventure. "It's quite exciting," gasps Annabel Allen, aged 12. "All the galloping. And the fences." Ellena boasts she had fallen off twice, once in a bog. Five-year-old farmer's son James Westwood's pony is so small she was barely 3ft off the ground, yet still he vows: "I'm going to go and kill the fox."

It is a cool, crisp day and good for the scent. "You have to be really quiet," Henry Brooke, at 18 a hardened veteran, says. "You're

trying to keep your horse still and then suddenly you see the fox. It just stands there and looks at you for ages. You watch until it's out of sight. Then you get to holler. It's really embarrassing. You have to holler so loud that everyone hears. The kids know what the holler is and come cantering up."

The adult huntsmen are fiercely protective of their young flock. The less experienced have "hunting nannies", who ride alongside with a leading rein. And, like sentinels at every country lane crossroads, admiring mothers balance on the roofs of their Land-Rovers and scan through binoculars for the dashing silhouettes of their little ones. "I've lost a child on a spotted cob..." worries one parent.

By the end of the afternoon the field is down to just 20. The pace has been too tough for many of them. The youngest survivor, Sarah Mann, aged six, has already proved her worth by being "bloodied" last year, with a fox's blood smeared over her face.

Then, when they have almost given up hope, the hounds begin to "speak" as they close in on a fox. The huntsman blows three long blasts on his golden horn and the field gallops over.

The fox has been caught by the frenzied hounds. "Yukkey," Annabel says.

"Who wants the brush?" calls out the huntsman. "I do!" shouts Kristian. The huntsman seizes the tail and hands it to him, advising him to "put it in some matts in a jam jar for about a month. Then give it a wash in some water and you'll have a perfect brush."

If for the children it is a day of adventure, for their parents the hunt is seen as a rite of passage into a world of responsible adulthood. For them it is all about etiquette, discipline and good



Gathered in: master of foxhounds Robin Smith-Ryland and junior members of the Warwickshire hunt. Parents believe hunting teaches the children country ways

manners. "It's regarded as polite to the organisers of the day to dress as smartly as you can," Charlotte Brooke says. Her two older children hunt while eight-month-old Jess follows in the Land-Rover. "It's rather like going to a dinner party. I think children ought to know that they should present themselves neatly and tidily."

As the wet and weary children wash down their muddy ponies, their parents sip whiskies in the warm farmhouse. They insist hunting is about learning to become a country person.

"You teach the children the country code - don't ride on the crops, shut the gate, say good morning to the farmer," Mrs Brooke says. "It's about self-discipline. It's learning the country way of life."

The adults are eager to emphasise that any child can hunt. "They all have to behave

equally well," Mrs Brooke says.

Hunting is not a cheap pastime. "I used to get my children's hacking jackets from a jumble sale," Mrs Brooke says. "Then you just need a pair of shoes with a heel and a hat. And for those who cannot afford the upkeep of a pony and correct apparel, the hunt can be followed on foot or by car."

At the Warwickshire hunt, an adult pays £300 for ten days' mid-week hunting; Saturdays cost £40 a day. Seventeen to 24-year-olds get half rates. Children pay £5 a day.

The children I spoke to are miniature replicas of their sporting parents and know the arguments by heart. They quite understand that the fox needs to be culled," Mrs Brooke says. "They see that the foxes take the chicken and lambs. They're very aware of the cruelty of nature. It's part of growing up in the country."

It doesn't distress them. My child might be horrified by seeing people sleeping in doorways in London."

Mrs Brooke also points out the practical arguments. "It's a good way of sweeping up the old, maimed and wounded foxes," she says. "And it's kinder than gassing or shooting."

I ask her 16-year-old daughter, who is already a hunting nanny, what she thinks of the kill. "It's only the old and weak that get killed..." she answers.

Kristian MacDougall, with the fox's brush peeping out of his pocket, says: "If the foxes were gassed it would be horrible, but the hounds kill them straight off..."

Thinking I am interviewing a novice, I ask how he feels about getting his first brush. "It's not my first," he says. "I've already got one hanging on my bedroom wall."

COUNTRY LIFE

Nearly everyone is up with the lark in the country. Except possibly the lark himself. He doesn't seem much in evidence these days. We have to start the day without him.

It's 6.50am, but others have been up before us. The house down the road has had £3,000 of peg tiles stolen. They were delivered only yesterday. Our hopper huts have had a few bricks nicked again. I can see the tyre marks. We had put in an application for a craft centre but the authorities turned it down. They said too much of it had been dismantled by our night visitors.

There has been a lot of huffing and puffing along the railway line. It's not the trains. It's the police, chasing the perpetrator of an assault. The power has been switched off. The platform is sinking with the weight of would-be passengers. The trains haven't moved.

There's always something going on in the line. Recently someone was killed in his car on the crossing. A few years ago the ticket collector got it into his head to save a pensioner the effort of heaving a lawn mower over the bridge by taking it across the railway line instead. Lawn mowers are not the sort of traffic express trains expect to encounter as they hurtle from Dover to Charing Cross. So there are ghosts on the line, as there are everywhere in the country.

When I wake up, the cats are ready and waiting. One is a hero. He alerted me when the burglars came in the summer. Making a noise which had never emanated from him before, he blocked my path one step at a time as I scurried after them. "I've never known even a rottweiler do that," the superintendent told me.

By now the dunkey is neighing. I give him his hay. Break the ice on his water trough. Once he was hit by a car and broke his leg. He was in a splint for six months.

Like everything here he has some Houdini traits. Occasionally he disappears through a hole in the fence. The pond has the same tendency. One morning we were woken by a sound like bath water going down a plug hole. We watched as the last trickle of water was sucked away. Just as the ducks took off in disgust it filled up again.

Time presses on. I hurry the children through breakfast. Until recently the school run was 70 miles a day. Now it's 60.

On the way back the woman in the car in front of me hits a cat. The cat runs off, but the woman is distraught. She's only half dressed. The top half. Otherwise it's pyjama bottoms and slippers.

I sympathise. Getting up in the country is a major performance. Sometimes I doubt if it is wise to do it at all.

JESSICA
GORST-WILLIAMS

Cool look at hot spots

FEATHER REPORT



Rare species: Scottish crossbill

Like children, we have been brought up on tales of furry animals and feckly birds. Save the panda! Save the avocet! But now conservation wants us to take on a more grown-up idea. Let me explain by diving into my *Complete Checklist of Birds of the World*.

Opened at random: did you know that there are 18 species of *glauclaudium* in the world? These include ferruginous pygmy owl, austral pygmy owl, Andean pygmy owl and Cuban pygmy owl. As a point of interest, I do rather like a good impersonation of *glauclaudium perlatus*, the pearl-spotted owl. But these birds do not have what it takes to be a flagship species. It would be hard to mobilise millions to the banner of the Prigineg owl, or the Iru owl. We were they threatened species. We would get nothing but groans: not another creature in danger of extinction!

The point is that it is not this species or that species that needs saving. We must think in sweeping, broad-brush terms. This brings us to a new buzzword in conservation: biodiversity.

If something has evolved as a species, life would be poorer without it. I leave the interpretation of the L-word to the individual reader; but this stands as a Vital principle for conservation.

Take Britain's single indigenous species, the Scottish crossbill. The bird is found only in Scottish pine woods: an evolutionary split from the crossbill, which is widespread. It is not a bird to excite the uncommitted, but it is an aspect of the biological diversity of the planet.

The International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) has been working on its biodiversity project for three years. This has involved the mapping of all species with a small range: 2,600 species whose range is 50,000 square kilometres or less. And they have come up with this startling statistic: more than 20 per cent of all bird species occur on only 2 per cent of the land surface.

The research has identified 221 places - they call them "hot spots" - where evolution and ecology have combined to produce a high concentration of unique species. But the implications of this research go beyond birds. The presence of unique birds almost invariably indicates unique mammals, invertebrates and plant communities. When it comes to talking the broad-brush approach of biodiversity, birds are the best indicators you could wish for.

The reason is simple: it is easy to see birds, or to hear them. Mammals tend to work by smell, and at night: they are much harder to observe. Insects and plants are problems for the specialist. Birding is the most straightforward method of enjoying nature, and of studying it. A review on the back of my American field guide declares grandly: "In this century, no one has done more to promote an interest in living creatures than Roger Tory Peterson, the inventor of the modern field guide... His greatest contribution to the preservation of biological diversity has been in getting tens of millions of people outdoors with Peterson field guides in their hands."

The ICBP's 221 hot spots are dotted all over the world. Only one is in Europe: Cyprus.

Dr Christoph Imboden, the director-general of the ICBP, summed up: "The concentration of so many unique species of plants and animals in such a small portion of the world is quite staggering. The discovery of these hot spots means that the future of large numbers of species could be secured by a relatively small number of initiatives. By contrast, the loss or degradation would result in unprecedented numbers of extinctions. It is imperative that these hot spots are given the highest priority in international conservation efforts."

SIMON BARNES

What's about birds? Watch out for sparrowhawks, kestrels and other birds of prey starting their aerial displays. Twitchees - Male pine bunting at Dagenham Chase, east London. Little bunting at Titchfield Haven, Hampshire. Details from *Birdline*. 0891 700222.

EVENTS

□ Belfast pigs: Royal Ulster Agricultural Society spring show and sale of more than 70 pedigree pigs, including performance tested boars. Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, King's Hall, Balmoral, Belfast (0232 665225). Wednesday, 9.30am, free.

□ Birstall hatters: Horses race against the clock over hunt-like terrain, including streams, ponds and fallen trees. Oakwell Hall Country Park, Nutter Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire (0924 474926). Tomorrow, 9.30am. Spectators free.

□ Bottisham BASC roadshow: Opportunity to meet experts from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation on subjects such as taxidermy, gun dogs and game-keeping, have firearms valued by Bill Harriman, and hear a lecture on Shooting and the Law at 8.15pm. Village College, Bottisham, nr Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (0284 728752). Friday, 7.30-10.30pm. £2, under-13s free.

□ Chipping Norton challenge: Any racing questions? Broadcaster Sean Magee, jockey Peter Scudamore and trainer David Nicholson are among the panel of racing experts answering questions from the audience. Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire (0608 642349). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £5-£10.

□ Denwick horses: Wen party & Mibrain Point-to-Point, 70 horses in six races over the three-mile, 18-fence course. Ratchegh Racecourse, Denwick, nr Alnwick. Northumberland. Signed from Alnwick by post 0665 74618, Mr Barnes). Today, 1.30pm. £6-£10.

□ Gilsbarn takes stick: Theo Fossel, a renowned stickmaker, takes a two-and-a-half-day BASC course in this ancient craft. BASC Northern Regional Office, Millbridge, Mill Lane, Gilsbarn, nr Clitheroe, Lancashire (0200 445046). March 20-22. £96 (advance booking only).

□ Inverurie animals: Annual Aberdeen Spring Show, now in its 146th year, featuring hundreds of horses, beef and dairy cattle and sheep for sale. Thalastone Agricultural Centre, Inverurie, Grampian. Signed from A96 (0224 311362, Mr Reid). Tuesday, 8am-4pm, £3.

□ Knausford races: Cheshire Forest Point-to-Point. About 110 horses compete in seven races over a three-and-a-quarter-mile, 18-fence course, with a highlight being the Land-Rover Qualifier at 1.50pm. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 654812). Today, 12.30pm. £10-£12 per car.

□ Lewasnick horses: Bolventor Harriers Point-to-Point: 100 horses in seven races, with a particularly strong line-up including Khaiff and For a Lark in the Ladies Open at 2.10pm. Lewasnick, nr Llancaeron, Cornwall. Signed from A30 (0288 352184). Today, 1pm, £8 per car.

□ Morecambe focus on waders: RSPB event looking at the thousands of wading birds, such as curlews, bar-tailed godwits and redshanks, which gather on Morecambe Bay salt marshes. Signal Box Level Crossing, West Bank, nr Morecambe, Lancashire (0524 701601). Today, noon. £1, child 50p.

□ Stowmarket show: Over 300 dairy cattle in the annual National Holstein Show, a single breed event, the highlight being the National Championships on Thursday. National Agricultural Centre, Stowmarket, Warwickshire (0203 696969). Wednesday, noon-6pm, Thursday, 8am-2pm. Wednesday free, Thursday £5.

□ Suffolk pointers: Eastern Harriers Point-to-Point, six races with a particular highlight being the Ladies' Open RMC Qualifier at 1.45pm. Higham Racecourse, Higham, nr Newmarket, Suffolk. Signed off A12 (0206 272661). Today, noon. £10 per car.

Gardens to visit

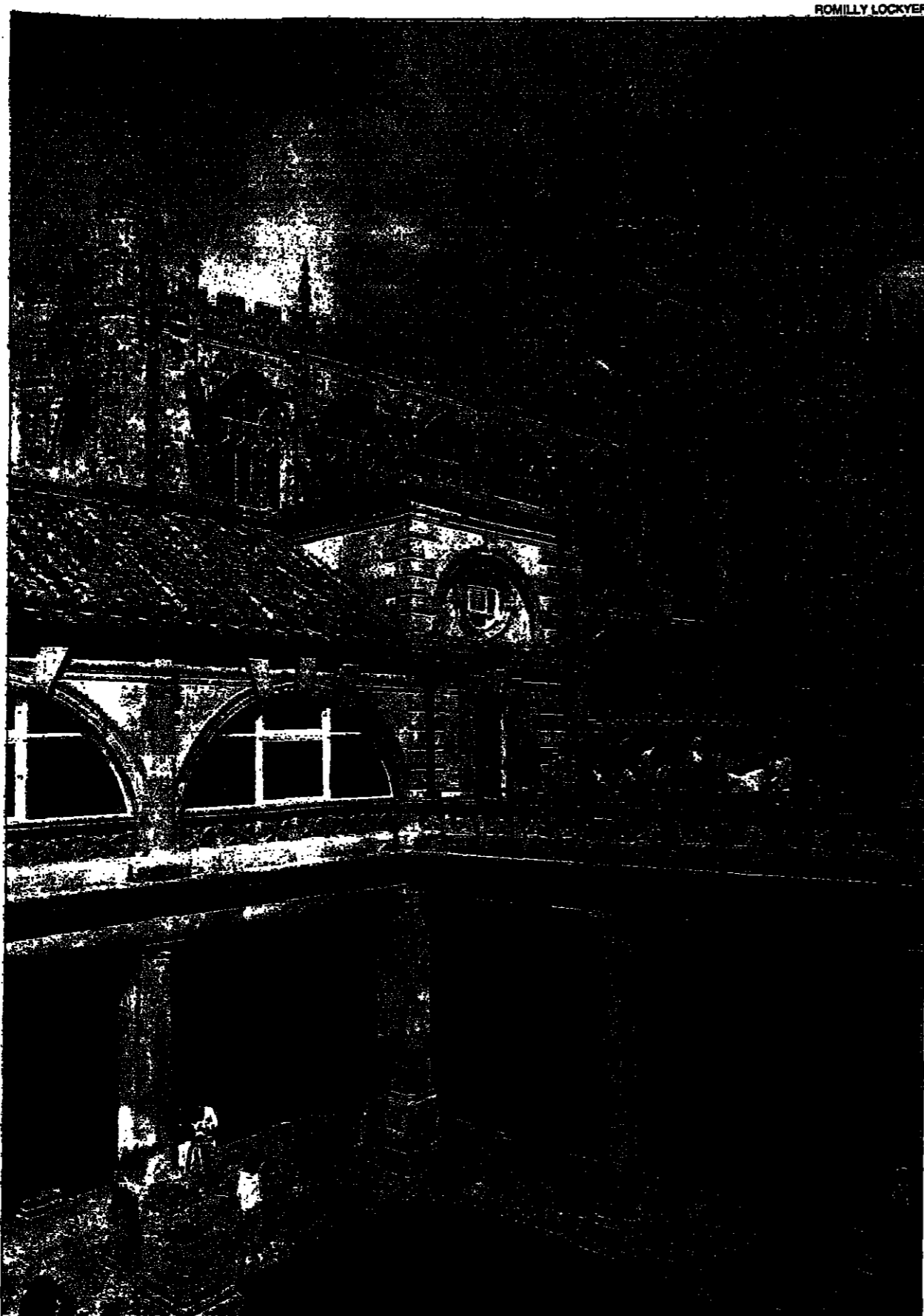
□ Buckinghamshire: Great Barfield: snowdrops, hellebores, willows and other early plants in 1½ acres. Bradenham, 4 m NW of High Wycombe, off the A4010. In the village, turn right park on gravel. Enter by No Through Road. £1, child free. Tomorrow, 2-5pm.

□ Devon: Killerton park and garden: hillside estate containing fine trees in the 15-acre garden. Broadclyst, 7 m NE of Exeter on W side of B3191. Winter admittance £1, child 50p. Open daily, daylight hours.

□ Dumfries and Galloway: Galloway House gardens originated in the mid-18th century and were

improved by later owners. Good trees and shrubs, snowdrops and daffodils in spring. Camellia house. Wigtown. Follow signs from Carlisle (half-mile). Open daily. £1, child 50p, families £2.50.

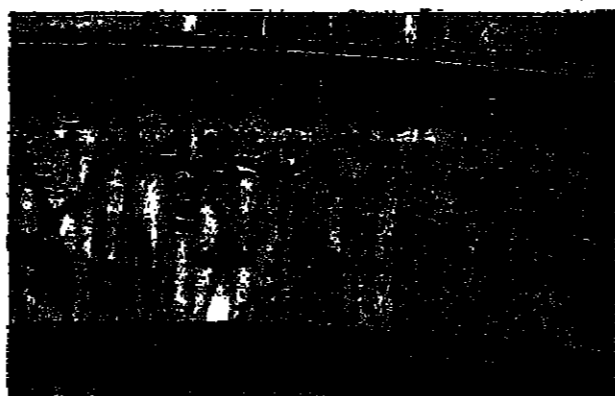
□ Isle of Wight: Ventnor Botanic Garden is sheltered from the sea winds and contains many tender plants, including trees and shrubs from China and New Zealand. Popular features are the palm garden and superb glasshouse. The Underlife Drive, Ventnor. Follow the signs from A3055. Free (Temperate House 50p, child 20p). Tues-Thurs until Easter, 11am-3pm; Sun, 1-4pm.



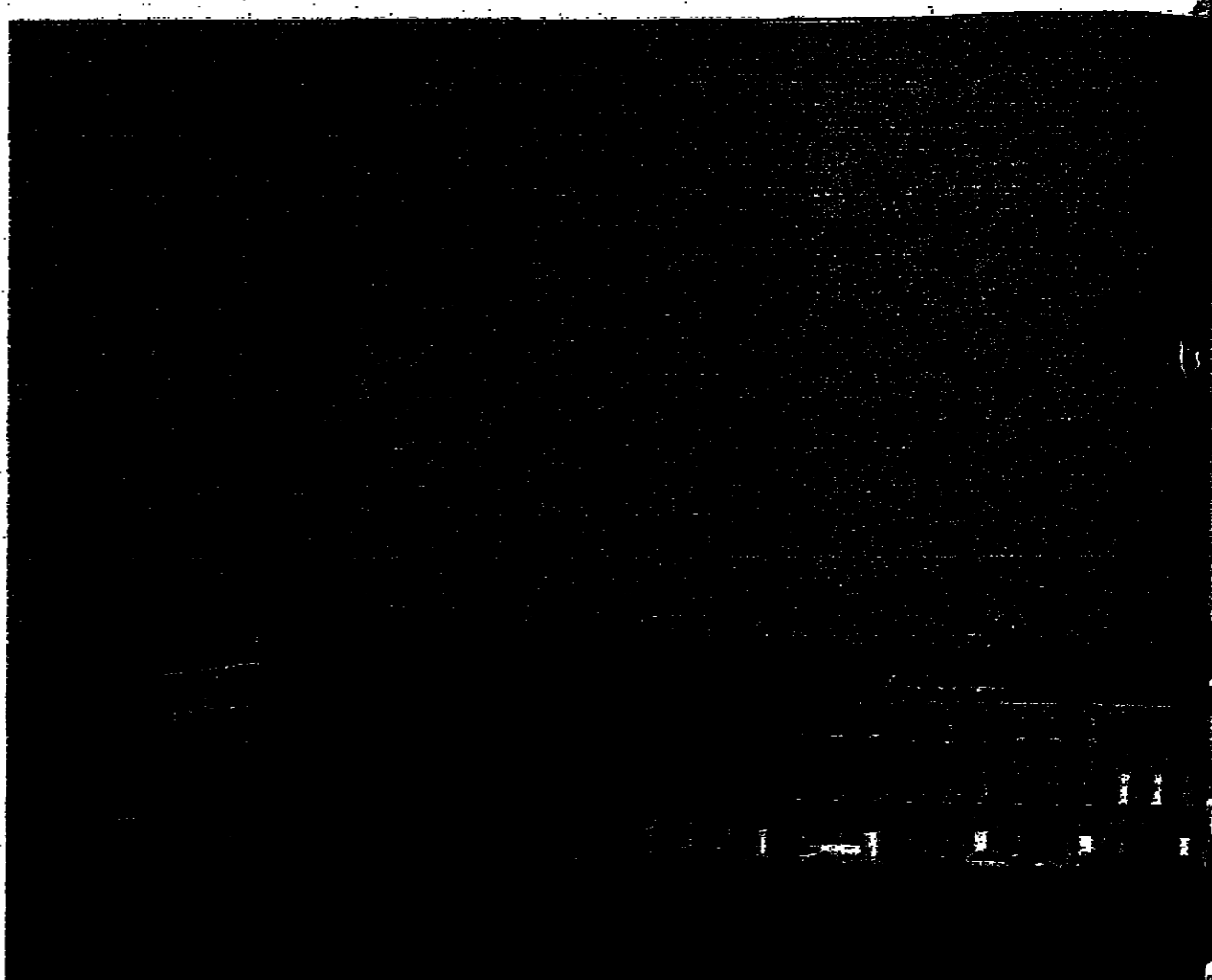
Cleanliness perfectly sited next to godliness: the Roman bath in the shadow of the mainly 17th-century abbey



Good enough to eat: Bath buns for tea in the Pump Room



Classic stones: architectural detail on a town building



Arc de triomphe: Bath's Georgian Royal Crescent, 30 houses in a 200-yard semicircle behind 114 Doric columns, over

The Romans built Bath for relaxation and entertainment, a place to escape the rigours of colonial life in the far northern reaches of the empire. There they could meet friends and fellow officers while enjoying the comforts and supposed medical benefits that the hot springs provided in an otherwise cold and inhospitable climate.

Some 17 centuries later, a group of Georgian entrepreneurs — or developers, as they would be called today — rebuilt Bath for much the same purpose: as a resort for fashionable society to continue to indulge itself on the pretext of taking a cure for its excesses. Contemporary visitors go not for medical or social reasons, but to marvel at a visual masterpiece.

Occasionally the magic fails to work. About 20 years ago we took our then au pair on a trip to Bath in the hope that it might help to cure her jaundiced view of England and the English. She sat in the back of the car in silent boredom, a hopelessly lost cause.

Such a reaction must be very rare. For most people, the first glimpse is breathtaking. There it lies, grey and gold in the greenest of valleys, displaying its beauties for all to admire.

There can be few other cities where buildings and landscape complement each other so superbly, from the central area near the river to the geometrical perfection of Royal Crescent and the Circus and, in the distance, the leafy terraces of Lansdown. It is one of only three cities in the world to have been included in its entirety in the

Unesco list of world heritage sites, the others being Rome and Florence.

Unlike Rome, from which it drew much of its inspiration, Bath is no metropolis. It is a medium-sized city with a population of about 85,000, economically overshadowed by Bristol, a dozen miles away. It earns a good, but by no means exclusive, living from tourism. An antidote to the image of excessive gentility is provided by the formidable local rugby club and its boisterously macho supporters.

Jane Austen was among those who expressed reservations about Bath and its mores, but this did not deter her from making frequent visits. Others were more easily seduced: past residents of the Circus and Royal Crescent include William Pitt the Elder, David Livingstone, Clive of India and Thomas Gainsborough. Joseph Haydn was well pleased with what he saw: "Today I looked at the city and found, half way up the hill, a building shaped like a half-moon and more magnificent than any I had seen in London."

Any visit to Bath should begin with its earliest history. Celtic legend relates that Prince Bladud, a leper who was banished from the court of his father, King Lud, and obliged to work as a winemaker, observed that pigs wallowing in the warm spring waters were cured of skin diseases. He tried the same treatment, was healed and succeeded to the throne.

The Romans went one better and built a temple above the sacred spring, with a series of



BEST OF BRIT

BATH

The Romans built Bath for pleasure, rebuilt it, and still it inspires. It

baths fed by pipes. They invented a convenient liaison between the Celtic god Sul and their own goddess Minerva, and the place became known as Aquae Sulis, the Waters of Sul. Minerva herself was said to have taken up residence beneath the spring.

Early in the 5th century, when the legions were recalled to Rome, the leisure complex was abandoned. Bath, however, assumed a new role as the site of a great Saxon monastery next to the spa.

A century later John de Villula, the Norman bishop appointed by William I, planned a vast cathedral, but

work ceased after a fire in 1149. The present abbey, begun 1499, is by comparison a modest structure, occupying only the site of what would have been the nave of de Villula's cathedral.

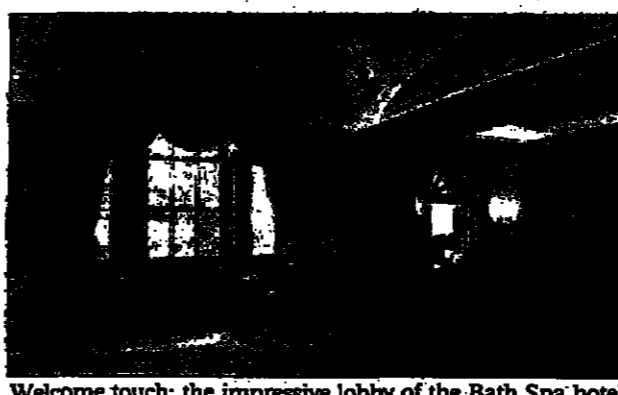
The Tudors displayed contradictory attitudes to its construction. Henry VIII ordered work to be stopped at the time of the Dissolution, but later daughter Elizabeth, sheltered during a rainstorm, was dismayed by its half-finished state that she ordered options to be made throughout the country for the next seven years to pay for its completion.

★ WHERE TO STAY ★

The place to stay in Bath must surely be the Bath Spa hotel, the former home of General Augustus Andrews, who built a great, classical 19th-century mansion on a hill at the eastern end of Great Pulteney Street, with formal gardens including a temple and grotto descending to what is now a busy roundabout.

After the general's death, the building was used as a school and later a nurses' home. More recently, Trusthouse Forte has spent more than £22 million on restoring and expanding its showpiece, re-creating the atmosphere of a grand country house, although it is only ten minutes' walk from the city centre. Last November it won the RAC hotel of the year award.

Customers paying £150 a night for a double room (£115 single) get high standards of service. The drawing-room,



Welcome touch: the impressive lobby of the Bath Spa hotel

with its well-stocked library and blazing log fire, is a delight (0225 444424).

The Royal Crescent, which occupies the two centre houses of the famous terrace, is of comparable opulence. Double rooms from £128, singles £100 (0225 319090).

The Francis, in Queen

Square, has fewer pretensions, but is comfortable and only a short walk from the main business and shopping area (0225 424257).

Good value-for-money can be found at two smaller hotels, the Henrietta (0225 447779) and the Edgar (0225 420619). Both occupy Grade

I Georgian town houses in the city centre. Double rooms £25-£30, single £20-£30.

Holly Lodge (0225 424042) and Leighton House (0225 314769) are large Victorian houses in their own grounds, about ten minutes from the centre. The former is notable for its interior decor and furniture, but smokers should look elsewhere.

Bath is surrounded by glorious countryside, with many attractive towns and villages. The choice of places to stay is huge and ranges from country houses to hotels. Most unusual is the Bradford Old Windmill (smoke-free), a converted stone tower in Bradford-on-Avon (0225 866842).

For weekend packages, often at less than half the standard price, see Bath Short Breaks 1991/92, available from Bath Tourist Information Centre, The Colonnades, Bath Street, Bath BA1 1SW (0225 462831).

★ WHERE TO EAT ★

FOR a city of its size and status, Bath is surprisingly short of high-quality restaurants, and to judge from the shortage of customers — admittedly easy in the week in winter — several appear to be suffering from the recession. An exception might be the handful of top hotels, but they are expensive.

● Woods restaurant and brasserie (0225 314812), opposite the Assembly Rooms, can seat up to 120 people in an elegant Georgian ambience.

● Claret (0225 466688), a basement restaurant and wine bar in Kingsmead Square, near the Theatre Royal, offers an imaginative menu, but the results do not always live up to the promise. The wine list is extensive.

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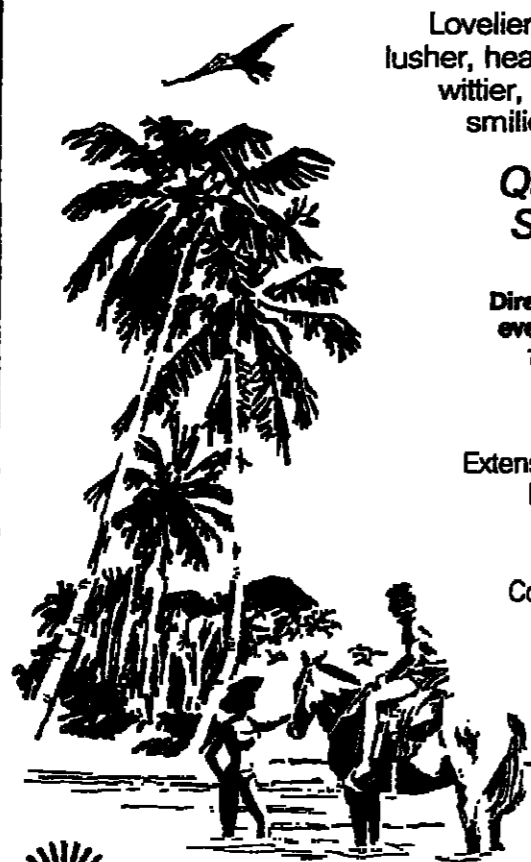
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From hang-gliding to Her



The eccentricity of the British, especially when on holiday, suddenly being seen by others as a potential lifeline which can grab and even use to help themselves out of the recession.

With 237 hotels, pubs and restaurants forced out of business in the last year, and a further 100 predicted for this year, the idea is too wacky, no novel will break too demeaning, no suggestion too crazy to be ignored — provided it attracts more visitors.

Now they have discovered that could be money in madness, hundreds of hotels, from remote country in London's grandest establishments are selling bedroom space and wrapped up in often quite outrageous advertising packages.

Even the Ritz, the Stafford Dukes in central London have ordered by their parent company Cunard Hotels and Resorts, a weekend breaks highlighting

Handwritten signature or note.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB DRINKWATER



land — a model of gracious urban living possibly without equal anywhere in the world

and drainage refinements of their Roman predecessors, and soon became squalid.

By the 17th century the water was covered with a foul scum that had to be raked off daily. The great John Wood the Elder, the architectural father of Georgian Bath, observed that "the baths were like so many bear gardens and modesty was entirely shut out of them; people of both sexes bathing by day and night naked; and dogs, cats, pigs and even human creatures were hurled over the rails into the water."

However, Bath was about to enjoy a renaissance under the triumvirate of Wood, Ralph Allen — who made a fortune from reforming the postal service, and who bought the quarries at Claverton and Combe Down, which supplied the limestone for the new buildings — and Richard "Beau" Nash (not to be confused with the Regency architect John Nash), who set about the task of transforming the muddy, dissolute old town into the apotheosis of beauty, culture and social decorum.

Although a gambler and womaniser, Nash was also a stickler for dress and manners. Such was the strength of his authoritarian personality that he was able to get the filthy streets cleaned and repaired, insist on improved standards of public behaviour and, most importantly, convince the city fathers that men like Wood had the vision to create a Palladian wonder amid the green hills of Somerset.

Beginning north of the abbey, some of the earliest Georgian streets run up the hill beyond the north walls of the medieval borough. A short stroll takes you to Queen Square — Wood's first big project, which he visualised as "a grand Place of Assembly". Wood chose to live in the square, as did Dr William Oliver, the man who invented the Bath Oliver biscuit to aid his patients' overworked digestions.

A short way further north is Wood's other inspired creation, the Circus, based on the form of a Roman amphitheatre, the centre of which he evidently intended to be used for sporting events. Many regard it as the city's most resplendent jewel, a claim strongly challenged by nearby Royal Crescent, the work of his son, also called John.

Thirty houses form a 200-yard semicircle and boast a facade of 114 Doric columns looking out across lawns and parklands. As an example of gracious, urban living it probably has no equal.

Another outstanding example of urban design completed a few years later is Great Pulteney Street, the work of Thomas Baldwin, who was the Bath city architect at the time. It is approached across Robert Adam's famous Pulteney Bridge,

close to where the river Avon tumbles over a weir, and was originally intended to be the centre of New Bath, a planned extension of the city to rival the New Town in Edinburgh.

The project was to be financed by a consortium of French banks, but the outbreak of the Napoleonic wars forced them to divert their resources to paying for the emperor's adventures. Most of the streets were never built, but Great Pulteney Street remains a grand boulevard.

Bath needs to be savoured as a piece of a leisurely stroll through the streets, squares and crescents is likely to prove far more rewarding than a helter-skelter dash to take in the main tourist attractions. But it would, of course, be a pity to miss the museum built around the remains of the Roman baths which were rediscovered in the middle of the last century, including the spectacular Great Bath itself.

Visitors can no longer take the waters because of an endemic amoeba, which has been declared a health hazard. But if you really want to, you can buy a glass of treated spring water with your tea and buns in the Pump Room next door.

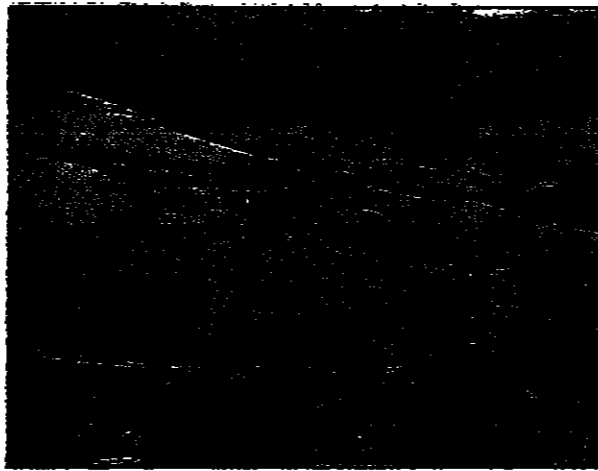
Other must-include the museum at No 1 Royal Crescent, which recreates the interior of a Georgian town house, and the Assembly Rooms, where Johann Strauss and Franz Liszt performed. Now happily restored after wartime damage and subsequent neglect, the Assembly Rooms are used in part to house the enchanting Museum of Costume; if you think frocks are boring, you may be in for a surprise.

There are more than 20 other museums in the city, one of which tells the story of the building of Georgian Bath. There is no space to list them all here, but they can be found in the local tourist guide.

Shops here have a high reputation, although a number have suffered from the recession. Walcot Street and nearby Bartlett Street contain several notable antique shops, such as Walcot Reclamation, Louiekanz and the Great Western Antique Centre. There is a flea market on Saturday mornings, although it would be unwise to expect too many bargains.

The city has not totally escaped the ravages of the 20th century. Bombing raids in the second world war, when it was a centre of Admiralty operations, did some damage, fortunately none too serious. Developers had a go in the 1960s and 1970s with a few regrettable results, but were largely rebuffed. Bath remains unique, a triumph of civilisation, and for that we should all be grateful.

WHERE TO WALK



Resting in peace: Upper Swainswick church, where the architectural father of Georgian Bath, John Wood, and his equally illustrious son lie buried.

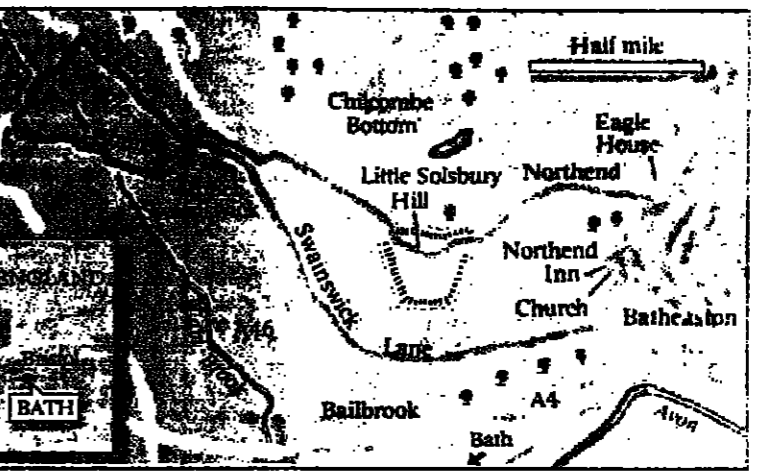
Apply, Bath was not designed for motor vehicles, and the best way to tour the city is on foot. For those with the time and energy who wish to see something of the surrounding countryside, one option is to drive, or take the bus, out along the old Roman road north of the river, the A4, for about three miles to the village of Bathaston.

Turn left up a narrow road signposted to Northend, which is an extension of the village, pass the church and continue until you reach Eagle House, where John Wood the Younger, the designer of Royal Crescent and the New Assembly Rooms in Bath, lived from 1773 until his death in 1781. The road at this point is wide enough to park the car. Walk back the way you came and turn right up Seven Acres Lane, at the top of which is a footpath

sign. The path leads up the hill, with a cabbage field on the left, and across two more fields, entered by stiles. Keep close to the hedges on the right; a gap ahead gives access to Solsbury Hill camp, the remnants of a Celtic hill fort, owned by the National Trust, where Prince Bladud is said to have cast magic spells before falling to his death. It is a stiffish climb, but on a clear day the view across the city and the Avon valley is worth the effort.

Walk across the top of the hill and about 50 yards down the slope to your right you will see another footpath sign. Cross the stile and continue down the slope, with a hedge on your right, beyond which the ground falls steeply down into Chilcombe Bottom.

Cross the main A46 road into the village of Upper Swainswick, where a row of houses turns its back to the



street to take advantage of the view across Lansdown. Buried in the churchyard at the bottom of the hill are Wood and his father, John Wood the Elder, the architectural father of Georgian Bath.

From here you can either return to Northend or cross the valley to the village of Woolley, about half a mile away. Do not be put off by the signpost pointing to a gate leading into what appears to be a private garden: the path is easy to follow and leads across a meadow to a small bridge across a brook.

The tiny church, built by the younger Wood, is surmounted by a charming if slightly incongruous cupola, and is entered by a door painted bright yellow. At the edge of the churchyard is a memorial to Rear Admiral Peter Puget, the discoverer of Puget Sound on the

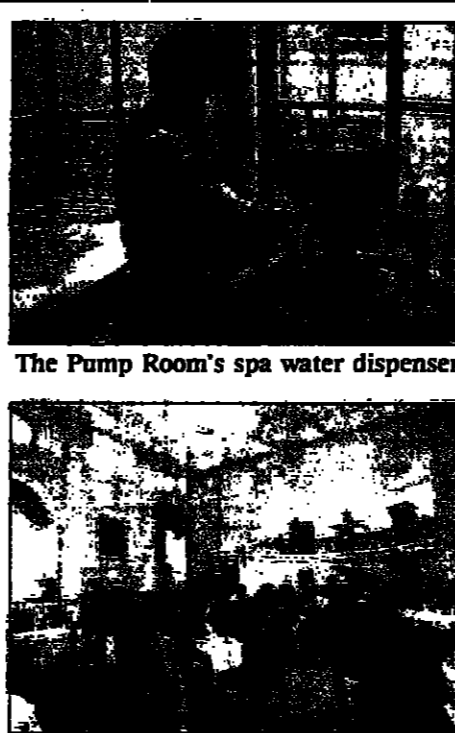
American Pacific coast, where Seattle now stands.

Take the lane down past Manor House, recrossing the valley to Upper Swainswick. Walk down the busy A46 for about 300 yards and you will come to a lane signposted to Northend. As you re-enter the village, take the stile and path across the fields to the church and drop into the Northend Inn, an old-fashioned pub which serves Ash Vine, a beer competition finalist.

● Eagle House is at 779684 on OS Pathfinder map ST 6676. Bath's 5 Kennisham, Solsbury Hill camp is at 768679, and the path leading to Upper Swainswick starts at 768672. From Upper Swainswick the path to Woolley begins at 758684 and finishes at 758686. On the return journey, Swainswick Lane leaves the A46 at 762682 and the final path to the church is at 778677.



Period piece: a flautist outside the baths



Gentility restored inside the Pump Room

EAT X

Wife of Bath (0225), near the abbey, is on a hillside, but d, though reasonably is nothing special.

Walcot (0225), in Walcot Street, oriental fare with a touch of charm, but does not fulfil its promise.

Places locally minded: Carous (0225), Cedars (0225), and Beaujolais (023417).

Moon and Spence (060962) is a light and airy bar with a choice of dishes and hot dishes.

Canary (0225) offers reasonably priced favourites such as salmon and steak and kidney pudding. In 1989 the Tea Council's award of the year.

ng to Herriot, the theme's the thing

Recession-hit hotels struggling to fill rooms are pushing back the frontiers of eccentricity to offer breaks with specialist appeal

how to prepare a table for six people. Then the guests cook their own meal under the chef's tuition.

The Midland Hotel in Derby is offering free meals to former guests who "borrowed" mementoes in the past. The hotel will not press charges, and will even return items to guests after they have been put on display for a few months.

For each item displayed there will be a reward of either afternoon tea or dinner for two, depending on the curiosity value of the piece concerned. They are confident of collecting enough old cutlery, crockery, chamber pots, monogrammed sheets, ornaments, glasses, brochures and bills to put on a good show.

Potential pilots can combine a

weekend with a first flying lesson with the Pride of Britain hotels "chicks away" package. Coningham Hall at King's Lynn in Norfolk, for example, combines a two-night stay for two people with half board and a flying lesson for one for £396.

Hotels around the country will organise Scrabble, sequence dancing, hang gliding, music, fitness or any other "theme breaks" which the fertile imaginations of the marketing men can dream up.

A well known literary figure with connections in the area helps. Hipping Hall in Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, has identified no less than six local writers and poets for its £550 per person "literary North" breaks in which guide-lecturers tell guests of

Wordsworth, Ruskin, Potter, Herriot and the Brontës, while showing them where they lived or worked.

Chris Martins is a specialist consultant who makes a career out of turning apparently silly ideas into money spinners for hoteliers. Among his triumphs are a "bah humbug" Christmas for a festive season without the trimmings, in which presents were banned and guests were forbidden to wish each other a merry Christmas; a "final fling" weekend for couples about to be divorced to spend a weekend together with a solicitor who does not have to pay; "anti-green" weekends spent in a hotel near a chemical factory and eating everything said to be bad for you; "beat the box" weekends without television; and a whole raft of golfing weekends, including tape-recorded crowd noises when a ball is finally sunk. "When times are good such things are an indulgence," Mr Martins says, "but when times are hard they lift the spirits, and I am now getting more

calls than ever from hoteliers anxious to do something different."

Whether the gimmick is as apparently inconsequential as that at the Lygon Arms in Broadway, Worcestershire, which welcomes guests' dogs with a bone tied up in either blue or pink ribbon according to sex, or as complex as a Mills and Boon "romance" weekend at the 17th-century Hanton Court in the Cotswolds, where guests become part of a complex plot and receive prizes if they guess what the denouement will be, establishing a theme — and dreaming up a suitable slogan for it — is all that matters.

Penhaven Country House near Bideford has stretched the package puns to the limit with its election special weekend, costing £89.50 per person for two nights, on a date to be notified by the prime minister. "Don't labour at home," the hotel says, "but join us for liberal doses of hospitality at a conservative price."

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From the White House to Wales: Dr Peter Bourne, a former assistant to President Carter, and Mary King with their llama Mirimar and the newly born Sheila

Llamas with a Welsh lilt

Home from home: Dr Peter Bourne and Mary King

When Jimmy Carter, the former American president, and his wife stayed with Peter Bourne and his wife, Mary King, at their llama farm a few years ago, the area was invaded by secret-service agents, hiding in the woods and camping out at the local pub. The Carters were on holiday at Llano Isaf, near Tregaron, west Wales, to catch trout from the river Teifi and enjoy relaxing evenings of Welsh song and poetry featuring Mr Carter's beloved Dylan Thomas.

The plan devised for the visit read like a White House schedule, and every mile was "advanced" or timed by Dr Bourne, a former Carter aide, to ensure it would all go like clockwork. Trips away from the 108-acre farm were all programmed precisely, but there was space for walking, fishing, or sitting around the Bourne's second-hand oak table eating the freshly caught trout.

Dr Bourne and his wife look back on the visit with satisfaction, because they achieved a balance between the necessary formality of

having a former president to stay for a week, and giving the Carters a sample of the Welsh culture they themselves have come to savour in the ten years since they bought their farmhouse at Tregaron.

The llamas are very much a part of their Welsh life, since all the births are planned to coincide with Dr Bourne's frequent visits, although two assistant llama keepers help at other times. It is Ms King who names the new arrivals — 14 so far, including the latest, Sheila.

These days Dr Bourne is an international trade and development expert, after serving at the UN as an assistant secretary general following his White House period as Mr Carter's special assistant for health issues.

He became interested in camel culture while on a trip to the Sudan, subsequently deciding that if he couldn't have camels, llamas would have to do. The furry, long-necked pack animals of Peru, Bolivia and Chile make perfect

pets, he says. "They are very gregarious and intelligent. They stand around watching when I'm working, and when one of the females has a baby, or cria, all the females stand close watching her. They like to rub noses with you. They are very hard and self sufficient; Welsh grass is very lush to them because their breed survives in the hard Andes, where the greenery is sparse."

Dr Bourne chose to buy a second home in Wales because he has Welsh blood, from his mother's side of the family; he has dozens of second cousins in and around Tregaron. His father was an Oxford scientist, who moved to America in the late 1950s to head the Yerkes Primate Center at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr Bourne, then aged 18, trained as a psychiatrist, and later worked in community mental health in Georgia, where he met Rosalynn Carter, a longtime volunteer worker. He went to work

for Mr Carter, then the state governor, and wrote the ten-page memo which inspired Mr Carter to run for the presidency in 1976.

Ms King progressed from the civil rights movement, about which she wrote a prize-winning book, to running the Peace Corps in the Carter administration. Now she is a Middle East specialist, who also enjoys competing at llama shows here.

Last year their llamas won the titles "best female under a year" and "best male" at a show run by the British Camelids Society at Ascot. Ms King has researched the farmhouses, finding the first mention in local records was in 1601 — quite a contrast to their modern townhouse in Washington DC. The farm is the site of something much older, however — a Roman fort called Bremia, between 70 and 80AD. A garrison of 500 soldiers was stationed there, part of a force sent to quell the Celts.

Ruins of the Roman bath remain in a field near one of the llama enclosures. Indicating the outline of the baths in the remaining stones, Ms King says: "This was the cold bath plunge, the tepidarium, and this was the warm bathing area with underfloor heating."

There is one reference book that is open more often than any other. It is a tome called *South American Camelids*, and it is Dr Bourne's bible: "The local vets don't know a lot about llamas and regard them as exotic species," he says. "This book is invaluable. Along with my medical training, it can get me through most problems, like last year when I had to deliver a baby after three days of waiting and worrying."

Tramping about the llama paddocks, or along the banks of the river, it is easy to see that at Llano Isaf Dr Bourne and Ms King have found the peaceful antithesis to their busy working lives. The green hills of Wales must seem irresistible from afar.

JOY BILLINGTON

Heap of the week: Minto House

Seat goes east

A small slice of Scottish heritage is set to grace the land of the rising sun when Minto House, near Hawick in the Borders, is demolished stone by stone and re-erected in Japan. Douglas Connell, Lord Minto's solicitor, says: "It will be a major tourist attraction; part of a big leisure development there."

Lord Minto's father, the 5th earl, obtained permission to demolish his ancestral seat in 1972, following the closure of the prep school that was leasing the house.

Robin Geil, who had successfully restored Faltoun and Newbyth, had wanted to buy it, but the late Lord Minto resisted.

That Minto has survived another 20 years is, therefore, surprising. Kit Martin, who has rescued more derelict piles than any man in Britain, saw Minto two years ago. "It is a very substantial stone shell," he says. "If it remained someone would certainly come forward in due course to restore and convert it."

Minto has an illustrious architectural history. William Adam, father of the famous Robert, incorporated earlier work and built a large, characteristically plain house here for Sir Gilbert Elliot. This was recast on a butterfly plan, with a bow and portico in the angle, for the 1st Earl Minto between 1809 and 1814 by Archibald Elliot, one of those who transformed Edinburgh into a modern Athens.

W.H. Playfair made alterations in 1837, and in 1859 James Maidland Wardrop introduced stunning French rococo interiors. Then Lorrimer, the Scottish Lutyns, arrived early this century and embellished the interior and terraced the garden to take superb advantage of the site, which is above a ravine.

The late Countess of Minto was one of Scotland's leading gardeners and maintained the garden during and after occupation by the school. Part of the deal with the Japanese, Mr Connell says, is that the

site of the house will be landscaped and the Lorrimer layout "stabilised".

The plans to move Minto have caused consternation among Scottish conservation groups, not least because Lord Minto is convener for chairman of the Borders Regional Council and could be held to be setting an odd precedent to other owners of listed buildings.

Lord Minto, however, has a passionate supporter in Patrick Horsburgh, the director of the Environment Foundation in Indiana. Thirty years ago Mr Horsburgh dismantled Wren's St Mary Aldermanbury and re-erected it as the chapel for Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri.

"The redistribution of unwanted, ruined treasure has now become a cultural obligation," Mr Horsburgh says emphatically.

Today Minto is just a shell — apparently its rich interiors were stripped out when demolition was approved. The new Japanese owners, Mr Connell says, "plan to recreate Minto as it was in its heyday in the Edwardian period when the 4th earl was Viceroy of India." Lord Minto has helped them with photographs and memories of the house when he knew it.

Due to the unfortunate events of 1972, Minto's move now looks inevitable. But if it takes place, ministers must ensure that it does not set a precedent for the many dozens of houses in Scotland in a similar state of abandonment.

As Oscar Wilde might have put it: "To lose one house might be considered a misfortune. To lose 100 could only be the result of indolence and incompetence without parallel in the history of British administration."

Last-minute bids to save Minto should be made to Mr Douglas Connell of Dundas Wilson (031-225 1234).

MARCUS BINNEY



Moving house: Minto is on its way to Japan, stone by stone

Piccadilly's prince of darkness

Fashion guru Tom Gilbey likes to be kept in the dark, which was quite a challenge for interior designer Michael Reeves

Tom Gilbey, the fashion designer, has a tiny but sumptuous two-roomed, top-floor flat in Piccadilly in central London. He is a city dweller who lives for the night, so when he moved into the flat four years ago with Isabella Troy, his Polish girlfriend, he wanted it to be very dark, lit only by pools of light.

The other stipulation was that the flat should be decorated and furnished at no great expense; Mr Gilbey is a protected tenant and could not view the apartment as an investment.

So Mr Gilbey, who owns the Waistcoat Gallery off Savile Row, sought the advice of Michael Reeves, a friend and former colleague. The two worked together in the 1960s when Mr Gilbey was dressing such luminaries as Mick Jagger and Eric Clapton. Today his clients include Lenny Henry and Danni Minogue.

Mr Reeves trained in fashion at Kingston art college, but now he works almost exclusively on interiors and is designing a new house for John Cleese.

What makes the partnership

work so well is the depth of their friendship. "I know Tom's character," Mr Reeves says. "I know he would hate to live in a 'designer' environment. He likes to go around in bare feet and leave newspapers and records on the floor."

To cater for this, Mr Reeves has created a set of soft, richly textured areas dominated by patterns upon patterns. Art deco fabric in black, terracotta and green squares on a chair sits on a richly woven 19th-century Indian carpet that is predominantly blue and maroon. The backdrop is a striking, geometrically patterned fabric on the walls, bordered by a dark green braid. Drawing attention to the edges like this gives a self-contained effect.

The wall fabric also covers the padding that was used for soundproofing: Mr Gilbey likes to listen to music at full volume.

"We both like off-beat colours

me & my decorator

and mixed styles," Mr Reeves says. They also both like to use mirrors extensively; Mr Gilbey's flat is full of them.

"The idea of mirrors on mirrors is that they take the eye in all directions," Mr Reeves says. "They create a visual effect that makes it difficult to see where it all ends."

More striking even than a huge wall mirror in the open stairwell are the panels of dark blue mirrors that run around the entire flat, creating light, interest and movement where painted walls would not. Two copper-coloured mirrors on opposite walls, above the rail in the bedroom, reflect into each

other and reflect out exotic arrangements of flowers and foliage.

The darkness Mr Gilbey wanted was achieved by the use of dark grey paint throughout. "It is much more exciting than black," Mr Reeves says. On the stairwells and the ceilings he has used a dark terracotta, which looks a different shade in each change of light — blackberry-blue in the hall, deep pink in the sitting-room, rich orange red in the bedroom — and everywhere, purple at night.

"Clients often find it difficult to accept a colour when they see it on the walls," Mr Reeves says.

"They panic and think they won't be able to live with it, without waiting to see the finished look. Fortunately Tom trusts me and has the courage to go for dark colours."

Mr Gilbey appreciates Mr Reeves encouraging him to think about the overall look rather than specific details. "I tend to get

bogged down in the minutiae," he says. He also knows nothing about lighting. As this was so crucial for a nocturnal dweller living in such a small place, he relied heavily on Mr Reeves's advice.

The sitting-room is lit by three low-voltage spotlights on the ceiling, and by uplighters in two glass-topped tables either side of a pale turquoise leather sofa. At the windows, two copper-coloured Venetian blinds glow warmly at night and give off a deep red colour of their own. "At night the rooms look very moody," Mr Gilbey says.

Much of the furniture has come from the Lots Road auction house in west London where he and Mr Reeves meet most Sunday mornings. It was there that they paid £150 for a pale cream carpet and a Japanese cabinet depicting fighting warriors.

"We have done a cosmetic job here," Mr Reeves says. "But Tom wanted something amusing and stylish, and he has managed to integrate into it everything he likes."

KAY MARLES



Light work: Michael Reeves, right, created subtle lighting for Tom Gilbey and his girlfriend, Isabella



Tired but tempting: this house near Thiene is priced at £42,269

Rusticity is costly

At first glance the house above may look like an Italian version of Heap of the Week. But the rustic stone property — structurally sound, but in need of substantial restoration and connection to mains water and electricity — has seven large rooms with exposed beams, stables on the ground floor, and a non-rustic price of £42,269.

The reason for the seemingly high price is that the house is in the Veneto, the prosperous northeastern region of Italy which extends from the Adriatic coast to the snow-capped Dolomites, from Lake Garda to the Austrian border, and includes many fine cities and beautiful mountain scenery.

The house is about 40 minutes drive inland from Venice and close to the old town of Thiene in the foothills of the Dolomites. The price includes a quarter acre of land with fruit trees, and the agent's fees.

There are many run-down houses ripe for development in the area, which can be reached by plane to Venice, Treviso or Verona (allow a day and a half, with an overnight stop, for the drive from Calais or Boulogne), but buyers should allow at least twice the purchase price to modernise.

Modern villas in the countryside

around Thiene cost from £100,000 for a three-bedroom detached house, with half an acre of vines and fruit trees.

A large detached house on the outskirts of Verona, for sale at £170,000, has four bedrooms and ornate wrought-iron balconies, five acres of land and a substantial vineyard and a cherry orchard.

Around Padua, Verona and Vicenza are the villas built in the 1500s by Andrea Palladio, the Renaissance architect, as summer houses for the Venetian nobility. To the north are the Dolomites, and

some of Italy's most sophisticated winter sports facilities. Cortina d'Ampezzo, the most glamorous ski resort in the area, is about three hours' drive from Venice; Belluno is 90 minutes away.

Property prices are particularly high in Venice, where crumbling palazzos on the Grand Canal sell for more than £2 million. A one-bedroom apartment in a converted historic building near Piazza San Marco, with marble floors, painted ceilings and a roof terrace, is for sale at £320,000.

CHERYL TAYLOR

Details of properties mentioned from Brian French & Associates, 12 High Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire (0423 867047).



Buyers' Italy
THE VENETO

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After the designer years, a new era
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It is this creative pool that produces a range of beautiful pieces, such as wooden painted candlesticks, Mexican-glazed mirrors, lamps, steel tables, minimalist chairs, umbrellas and a kitchen unit on wheels.

"None of our designs are the same," Harry says. "When we start a piece of work we actually have no idea how it is going to turn out. It depends what happens dur-

Brotherly loves: Hugo, left, and Tim Villiers are two-thirds of a family business that combines art with practicality

PRICE LIST
Sun mirrors in resin, £88.

Wooden regal candlesticks, £120. Traditionally hand-forged steel mannequins, £350 each. Glass top moon table, £380. Round moon table with inlaid top, £350. Regal candlestick

Top: £50. Regal candlestick lamp. £130. Moon-shaped lamp. £130. Minimalist steel chair, £275. Velvet two-tone

Lampshades, £20. For viewing, commissions and further information, contact the brothers

contact the producers direct. They are open to enquiries and commissions.

but also people without much money to spend, so the price range caters for both. "We wanted to bring the fun element back into shop-



son's Mickey Mouse. £16.50

ping. Rather than the hard, austere look of the style

shops of the 1980s, we have tried to create a department store atmosphere with a 'hands on' approach, encouraging people to pick things up rather than locking them away."

Most of the accessories in

Maison rely less on a name for their appeal than on their intrinsic usefulness or their good design, although kitsch — the newest 1990s trend — also has its place, with pear and pineapple-shaped hot water bottles and bear-shaped lollies.

As for the prices, you can pay £165 for a chunky pearwood parmesan cheese-grater or £0.95 for a classic

Pastis bottle. The most expensive item is a glass, cactus-shaped bowl by Daume at £2,400; the cheap-

NICOLE SWENGLEY
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BBC 1

- 6.45 Open University (59372255)
 8.50 Playdays (r) (8227217) 9.10 News and weather (5178555)
 9.15 Getting Through. Sybil Phoenix, who has fostered more than 200 children, explains how her faith, family and garden have helped her cope with difficult times (1276491) 9.30 This is the Day from Fargus Park in Paisley (52631)
 10.00 See Hear! Gerard MacGuire and Karen Hobbs look at the way that gay men and lesbians are portrayed on television (34304)
 10.30 Business Matters. David Lomax examines American self-made millionaire Tom Peters addressing a conference (r) (4533)
 11.00 Work is a Four Letter Word. How to use the telephone to your best advantage (e) (1052)
 12.00 Jazz (r) (532575) 12.25 Experiment! Air pressure (8417655)
 12.30 Country File with John Craven (397455) 12.55 Weather (507355)
- 1.00 News (53357946) 1.05 On the Record. Jonathan Dimbleby talks to a leading political figure (256278)
 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (CeeFax) (r) (35033)
 3.00 Film: Force 10 from Navarone (1978) starring Harrison Ford, Robert Shaw and Edward Fox. Selected sequel to The Guns of Navarone. The commandos have orders to blow up a vital Nazi bridge in Yugoslavia. Directed by Guy Hamilton (53149)
 5.00 The Clothes Show (e) (5149)
 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. From York (CeeFax) (712878)
 5.45 Play It Safe. Preventing playground accidents (CeeFax) (522385)
 6.25 News with Chris Lowe. Weather (758149)
 6.40 Songs of Praise from Kilmarnock. (CeeFax) (e) (509782)
 7.15 'Allot' Allot (CeeFax) (e) (542722)
 7.45 Lovejoy. Scoon on the Rocks. Comedy drama starring Ian McShane as a shady antiques dealer. (CeeFax) (e) (256033)



Ghostbusters: Peake-Jones, Costigan and brood (8.35pm)

- 8.35 So Haunt Me
 • CHOICE: A couple move into a new house and as things start to go bump in the night they discover it is haunted by a woman ghost who has managed to scare off the 16 previous owners. As situation comedies go the plot is unusual, though as the ghost has no intention of getting rid of the present incumbents the writer Paul A. Mendelson may have difficulty squeezing much out of it. We shall see. Meanwhile Mendelson, who wrote the romantic comedy May to December, shows his facility for gently amusing dialogue, and the cast is excellent. Miriam Karlin plays the ghost, though why so much should be made of the phantom's Jewishness is not yet clear. George Costigan and Tessa Peake-Jones are in lively form as the couple and Laura Simons shapes well as that familiar sitcom character, the truculent teenage daughter. (CeeFax) (e) (324016)
- 9.05 One Foot in the Grave. Comedy starring Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie. (CeeFax) (e) (291877)
 9.40 News with Martin Lewis. (CeeFax) Weather (185782)
 9.55 Mastmind. The specialist subjects are Pieter Bruegel the Elder, British freshwater fish, the history of the flute and its music, and Soviet Russian literature 1917-1977 (e) (702217)
 10.25 Everyman: Mutual Aid. The remarkable story of Geel, a small Belgian market town. For more than 500 years the townspeople have opened their doors to people with psychiatric and physical disabilities. (CeeFax) (511675)
 11.05 Dear John: USA. Judd Hirsch returns as the lonely hearted hero in the American version of the popular British comedy (124069)
 11.30 The Shadow: Doctors. Two GPs from Galeshead and Granada compare each other's lifestyles. (CeeFax) (50558)
 12.00 The Sky at Night with Brian Cox (507355)
 12.20 Mahabharat (r) (561076) 1.00 Weather (4537521)

BBC 2

- 6.35 Open University: Maths - Fishing for Figures 7.00 Modern Art: Artists' Techniques 7.25 Physical Chemistry: Yields and Rates 7.50 Pilgrimage: The Shrine at Loreto 8.15 TV - The Global Impact 8.40 Strike a Light 8.05 Motocross, Mechanisms and Minds 9.30 An Historian at Work 9.55 Potentially Speaking 10.20 Psychology: Researcher Styles 10.45 Chemistry: Home and Away 11.10 Information Technology - a Revolution? 11.35 The Enlightenment: Reason and Progress (59579333)
- 12.00 Regional Westminster Programmes (51525)
 12.30 Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam introduces action from the closing day of the Winter Olympics. Includes live coverage of the ice hockey final. Plus Doug Derryell at the World Indoor bowls championship from the Guild Hall, Preston (e) (5821304)
 5.00 Rugby Special. Chris Rea introduces coverage of the Pilkington Cup quarter-finals (e) (5525)
 6.00 Olympics Today. A look back at the 16 days of competition (782)
 6.30 The Money Programme. Brian Barron reports from China and asks if China can maintain its hard-line communist regime and embrace capitalism at the same time to develop its economy (545878)
 7.15 The Natural World: Portrait of the Planet. The programme presents a wide-ranging view of the planet and the changes that man has wrought. The documentary won the Best Conservation/Environment Film award at last year's Jackson Hole International film festival. (CeeFax) (156743)
 8.05 Follow The Money: The Great British Invention
 • CHOICE: In the first of four documentaries on aspects of British business, Christopher Hird looks at the old conundrum of why we are so good at inventing things but often very bad at putting our inventions into effect. Hird's examples are mostly the familiar ones: the jet engine, penicillin, the computer, the hovercraft, the body-scorer. The stories have been told many times, not least on television. Together they add up to a formidable accusation that the British have been consistently unable or unwilling to recognise and reward scientific initiative. The result is that the good ideas go overseas. Hird suggests several reasons and one underlying one. Unlike their competitors in the United States and Japan, British are not big spenders in research and development. In 1988, British projects that might not come to fruition for many years. (233556)
 9.05 Trying Times. An amusing tale of American angst, starring Carrie Fisher (111781)
 9.30 Did You See...? Jeremy Paxman is joined by former Scottish National Party MP Margo MacDonald, Nigerian writer Sir J. G. Akpan and courtier writer and presenter Patsy McCarthy for a discussion on the new drama series *Rickie*, the comedy *Men Behaving Badly* and *In Time of War* (e) (50385)



Husband and wife: Khan, Bhattacharjee and Syal (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Screen Two: My Sister Wilf.
 • CHOICE: Meera Syal is author and star of an unorthodox triangle drama set in a wealthy sector of Britain's Pakistani community. Acquiring a modern, intelligent lifestyle with her Pakistani husband, she falls in love with a handsome businessman (Paul Bhattacharjee). There is a snag. He is already married. But she is both Muslim and there is no barrier to his taking another wife. So Syal moves into his household as wife to him and "sister" to the original wife (Shaheen Khan). But wife number one is determined to get her husband back and there follows an intense tale of suspicion, jealousy and the two women jockey for position. Meera Syal the writer offers illuminating context between Western and Asian cultures, but Syal the actress struggles with an unsympathetic part. The moral of the story is to stick with one partner at a time. It is far less complicated (e) (11014)
 11.30 Olympics '92. Desmond Lynam presents some of the more memorable moments of the past two weeks, plus highlights of today's ice hockey final and the closing ceremony (351472). Ends at 12.45am

ITV

- 5.00 TV-am (9185149) 9.25 Disney Club (704335)
 10.45 Link. Successful American actress and comedienne Geri Jewell explains how she used humour to deal with reactions to her cerebral palsy. (Oracle) (1211743)
 11.00 Morning Worship from Emmanuel College, Newcastle (53304)
 12.00 Encounter examines Hazel Flies' extraordinary work over the past 30 years with the people of Calcutta (e) (58052)
 12.30 LWT News Weekend (5952052) 12.55 Weather (50785762)
 1.00 News with Edward Stourton. Weather (17070089)
 1.10 Walden. Brian Walden interviews Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary (e) (580043) 1.55 The Day (4747730)
 2.00 Snooker. Nick Owen introduces coverage of the Pearl Assurance British open from the Assembly Rooms in Derby (1430052)
 3.20 The Match. Live coverage of the match between Everton and Leeds United from Goodison Park. Alan Parry is the commentator (e) (58433165)
 5.30 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge quiz game (e) (675)
 6.00 Hannah Macoull - Innocent Abroad. Paul Dunstan narrates the second of a six-part documentary series about Hannah Macoull's grand tour of Europe. In today's episode she embarks on a cruise down the Rhine and visits the Alps (595)
 6.30 News with Edward Stourton. Weather (54155) 6.35 LWT News (592897)
 6.40 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe visits Fort William. (Oracle) (594830)
 7.15 You've Been Framed! Jeremy Beadle presents a compilation of everyday small-time tales (57553)
 7.45 The Darling Buds of May. A Season of Heavenly Gifts. Gentle comedy/drama series that focuses on the pleasant side of human nature - something like *The Waltons* with a British accent. Pop cannot believe his luck when he helps a former RAF pilot. (Oracle) (e) (410355)
 8.45 Mervyn. When a serious crime occurs in a seaside town famous for its oysters, Mervyn cannot resist the temptation to investigate. Starring Michael Gambon (Oracle) (783743)
 9.45 News with Edward Stourton. Weather (159101) 10.00 LWT Weather (741451)
 10.05 Old Boy Night. Part two of the comedy starring Tom Conti and John Standing. Our heroes are approached by a beautiful former CIA agent (45168)



Drawing on her Portuguese upbringing: Paula Rego (10.35pm)

- 10.35 The South Bank Show: Paula Rego
 • CHOICE: There is nothing like *The South Bank Show* for pulling out superlatives. Tonight's comes from the critic John McEwen, who describes Paula Rego as "the most widely regarded British-based artist of today". Rego has been British-based for 25 years but much of the inspiration for her work still comes from her native Portugal. Like George Simenon, who continued to set novels in Paris while living in the United States, Rego cannot erase her early years. Central to her life and work is a reaction against a wealthy family background in which women were expected to do nothing. This is the cue for enthusiastic feminist approval from Germaine Greer, who admires Rego's spontaneity and profound subversive sense. Specially showcasing a chronological approach for a thematic one, director Melissa Rainsford provides a useful portrait of an unusual and individual talent (595014) (415946)
 11.35 Hooked Fifth of six programmes investigating drugs in the 1990s.
 12.05am Snooker. Highlights of two fourth-round matches from the Pearl Assurance British open (5057900)
 1.05 Use The Music. David Essex in concert at London's Albert Hall (e) (5754540) 2. The ITV Chart Show (e) (5837144)
 3.10 Film: The Man Who Could Cheat Death (b/w, 1959) starring Christopher Lee. Hammer horror about a mysteriously handsome scientist who has found a surgical way of staying young. Directed by Terence Fisher (5001328)
 4.35 Pick of the Week. Regional television highlights (r) (30827)
 5.05 Soap. More mayhem with the Tates and the Campbells (r) (78328)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (53453). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Trans World Sport (r) (57946) 7.00 Eurostar's Castle. Early morning fun (58481) 7.30 Star Street (7747165) 7.55 The Wild Bunch (772559) 8.25 Ramona (r) (5414472) 8.55 Little Rosey (e) (403584)
 9.25 The Sword of Tipu Sultan. Indian drama in Hindustani with English subtitles (1473507)
 10.00 Dispatches. A documentary investigation into accusations of Satanism and the Satanic abuse of children (r) (5914061)
 10.45 Dennis. Animated adventures (1215585)
 11.00 Dr. At. Deal children are helped in a short dance routine by Mark Smith (r) (3033)
 11.30 Flipper. Classic 1960s series featuring a lovable dolphin (4762)
 12.00 Little House on the Prairie. Drama series about family life in the 1850s on the Kansas plains (r) (177052)
 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Vintage underwater adventure series about an extraordinary submarine and its crew (3472)
 2.00 Opera On 4: Orfeo ed Euridice. A recording of Harry Kupfer's production of Gluck's opera from the Royal Opera House, directed by Hans Hulscher and featuring soloists Jochen Kowalski and Gillian Weir (e) (59323)
 3.30 The Three Stooges in *Idiot Deluge* (b/w) (5500894)
 3.55 Serengeti Has Not Died. Sir Peter Scott introduces this *Survival* documentary exploring Africa's greatest wildlife area (r) (5553585)
 4.25 Valued Opinion. Max Robertson presents the last in the series on collecting antiques. Today he is joined by Sotheby's jewellery department director Alexandra Rhodes to view some art deco gems (546120) 4.55 News headlines and weather (517595)
 5.00 Scottish Eye. An examination of the crisis in Scotland's forestry industry, following the government's decision three years ago to withdraw tax concessions to encourage forestry (5855)



Computerised cross-examinations: Paddy Ashdown, MP (5.30pm)

- 5.30 Star Chamber with the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown (e) (217)
 6.00 The Press Gang. The return of the children's drama series centred on the young editorial staff of the *Junior Gazette* (r). (CeeFax) (530) 6.30 The Wonder Years. Nostalgic comedy/drama about a teenage boy in 1960s America (e) (510)
 7.00 The Fragile Earth. The RSPB presents the last in the series on rare birds eggs from the clutches of human predators. Thanks to their efforts, it is now the trappers, taxidermists, game keepers and egg collectors who are getting trapped (r). (Teletext) (3491)
 8.00 Whicker's World - Down Under. Alan Whicker visits one of the world's strangest communities in the opal town of Coorber Pedy where the miners live in air-conditioned underground homes to escape the inescapable climate (r) (7743)
 8.30 On the Edge. The last programme in the series on improvisation in music explores the role of improvised music in society (e) (56665)
 9.30 Burning Books. Includes an interview with the author of *Love Story*, Erich Segal; and a look at the continued obsession with Elvis Presley in Mark Morrice's book *Dead Elvis* (1978) (r)
 10.00 Film: The Smallest Show On Earth. 1957, starring Peter Sellers as a drunken projectionist in a dilapidated flea-pit cinema inherited by a married couple (Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna). Directed by Basil Dearden. (CeeFax) (39410)
 11.30 Film: *La Cage aux Folles* (1978). Comedy about a co-habiting homosexual couple, one of whom has a son who announces that he intends to marry and bring his intended in-laws to his father's gay nightclub in St Tropez. Directed by Edouard Griboussier. In French with English subtitles (580236). Ends at 1.00am

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BBC 1

- 6.35 Open University: Using the Aggregate Demand and Supply Model 7.00 Introduction to Pure Mathematics (7620087).
- 7.25 News and weather (8273754).
- 7.30 Crystal Tipps And Allstars: Animation (r) (1606280) 7.35 Wiz Bang: Early morning fun (s) (3592867) 7.45 The Jetsons: Space-age cartoon family (r) (2541342) 8.05 Eggs 'n' Baker: Cheryl Baker's guest is children's poet Michael Rosen (s) (8544667) 8.35 Thundercats: Feline cartoon adventure (r) (6110822).
- 9.00 Going Live! Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield are joined by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Sir Peter Imbert, actress Wendy Richard and, giving advice on getting rid of spots, Dr Aric Sigman (241358) 11.27 Weather (6615006).
- 11.30 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. Today's line-up is (subject to alteration): 11.35 and 12.55 Winter Olympics: The penultimate day's competition featuring coverage on the men's slalom and the third and fourth runs in the four-man bobsleigh; 12.40 Football: a review of last week's FA Cup fifth-round matches; 1.35, 2.05 and 2.35 Racing from Puchestown; 1.50 and 2.20 Bowls: the Midland Bank world indoor championships from the Guild Hall, Preston; 2.50 and 3.55 Rugby League: live coverage of a quarter-final of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup; 3.45 Football: half-time scores; 4.35 Final Score (9022835).
- 5.10 News and weather (7492396).
- 5.20 Regional News and sport (3590386). Wales: (to 5.50) Wales on Saturday.
- 5.25 Stay Tuned! Tony Robinson presents a selection of spooky cartoons (2840984).
- 5.50 Big Break: Jim Davidson and John Virgo are joined by Tony Knowles, John Spencer and Tony Mee for another edition of the snooker quiz show. (Coefax) (s) (155483).
- 6.20 Noel's House Party: Noel Edmonds is joined by EastEnders stars Adam Woodyett and John Altman and there is a *Gratch* Oscar for Tommy Mallett (s) (883613).
- 7.10 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. The magician is joined by two special guests from Kiev in the Ukraine, Galina Strutsinskaya who combines dance with magic and the humorous illusionist Evgeny Voronin. (Coefax) (s) (807193).



Death in the family: the dishevelled Peter Falk (7.55pm)

- 7.55 Columbo: Try and Catch Me. Peter Falk stars as the dishevelled detective, in this case tangling with a successful crime writer who believes that her nephew was responsible for the death of her niece. With Ruth Gordon (r). (Coefax) (s) (152342).
- 9.05 Moon and Son: Her Death Was So Sudden starring Millicent Martin and John Mickle. Gladys and Trevor become involved with a honeymoon couple and the Moon. (Coefax) (s) (941222).
- 10.00 News with Michael Suer. (Coefax) Sport and weather (488667).
- 10.20 That's Life! Presented by Esther Rantzen. Includes a warning about a holiday nightmare and news of an elderly couple who left their savings and homes. (Coefax) (s) (564919).
- 11.00 Midnight Caller: Live without Suspicion. The first of a two-part adventure in which Kilian finds himself the unwitting catalyst to the protests of rioting prisoners who have taken over a cell block with the guards as hostages. Starring Gary Cole. (Coefax) (s) (158667).
- 11.50 Film: The Philadelphia Experiment (1984) starring Michael Paré and Bobby Di Cicco. Allegedly based on a true wartime incident when experiments to make American battleships invisible to radar caused a boat to vanish. Two young sailors in the second world war slip through a time warp and arrive in 1984. Directed by Stewart Raffill. (Coefax) (406087).
- 1.25am Weather (4816656).

BBC 2

- 6.40 Open University: What is Combinatorics? 7.05 Maths: The Binomial Theorem 7.30 Landscapes: Bodmin and Dorset 7.55 TV - the Technological Impact 8.20 The Belham Tubes 8.45 Information Technology - a Revolution? 9.10 Personality: Development and Learning 9.35 Movies: Brain and Behaviour 10.50 Domino - an International Puzzle 11.15 Changing Britain: A century of Change 11.40 From Child to Pupil 12.05 Caring for Data 12.30 Education: Signs of the Times 12.55 Pilgrimage: The Shrine at Loreto 1.20 Education for All 1.45 Psychology: Two Research Styles 2.10 It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow 2.35 History: What is its Future? (8122).
- 3.00 Mahabharat. Epic Indian drama. In Hindi with English subtitles (3042700).
- 3.40 Original Page. American pianist and musicologist Joshua Rifkin plays a selection of Scott Joplin's classics, including 'The Entertainer' and 'Elite Syncopations', in a concert performance recorded in Bristol in 1990 (s) (5440006).
- 4.30 Bowls. Dougie Donnelly introduces action from the second day of the world indoor championships from the Guild Hall in Preston. With commentary by John Bell, Jimmy Davidson, Mal Hughes, David McGill and David Ryles Jones (s) (1111648).
- 5.40 Late Again. Highlights from The Late Show (s) (351919).
- 6.25 News with Mike Stuart. Sport and weather (591006).
- 6.40 Young Musician of the Year. Humphrey Burton introduces the second of two Mozart recitals given by previous finalists and winners of the competition. Paul Galbraith (guitar), Jonathan Rimmer (flute), Ruth Boller (oboe), Suzi Meszaros (viola), and Caroline Dale (cello) perform the adagio and rondo, K517, and Emma Johnson (clarinet) and Ronan O'Hara (piano) join Caroline Dale for the Kegestalt Trio, K488 (s) (301238).



Mistreated: Karel Mrazek, a veteran Czech airman (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Fine Cut: The Forgotten Men. CHOICE: "I did not expect they would welcome us as heroes, neither did I expect they would welcome us with clubs in their hands." The Czechoslovakian airmen who fled their country under German occupation and fought alongside the Allies during the second world war, were not just regarded by their homeland but cruelly mistreated. The shocking film shows how after the communist coup of 1948 the former RAF pilots were often accused of being spies and imprisoned or sent down the mines. The programme is overtone and gains nothing by introducing melodramatic reconstructions of secret police interrogations and intimidation, but it is fascinating to hear the Czech veterans talking for the first time about their experiences. One returning 'hero' even found himself sharing a prison with the German SS men he had been fighting against. (17754).
- 9.00 Moving Pictures. In the last of the present series there are features on director Robert Altman: a New York policeman who while attempting to help a friend is accused of murder; Marlowe finds suicide, blackmail and a beautiful woman. Directed by Robert Altman (942519). Ends at 1.15am.

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (9281377) 9.25 Motormouth (7772014).
- 11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Video Vault track is the Cure's 'In Between Days' (s) (70464).
- 12.30 McDonald's Child of Achievement Awards introduced by Andy Crane (79929).
- 1.00 News with Edward Sturton. (Oracle) Weather (53375342) 1.05 LWT News and weather (53374612).
- 1.10 Saint and Greaves. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves preview tomorrow's match between Everton and Leeds (390754).
- 1.55 Snooker. Nick Owen introduces coverage of the Pearl Assurance British open from the Assembly Rooms in Derby (5649025).
- 3.15 Athletics. Jim Rosenthal presents live coverage of the TSB Invitation from the new National Indoor Arena in Birmingham (753083).
- 4.45 Results Service with Elton Wesley (4145280).
- 5.00 News with Edward Sturton. (Oracle) Weather (3492700) 5.05 LWT News and weather (7480551).
- 5.15 10 Sharp Pat Sharp's special guest is singer PM Dawn (747087).
- 5.30 Baywatch. David Hasselhoff and his colleagues assist another bery of bronzed beauties. (Oracle) (s) (747349).
- 6.20 Beattie's About. Jeremy Beattie presents a compilation of the 'best' musical jokes he has played on unsuspecting members of the public (s) (80377).
- 7.05 Stars in Their Eyes. Leslie Crowther presents a new series of the show where ordinary people impersonate their favourite stars. (Oracle) (882613).
- 7.35 The Brian Conley Show. The first of a new comedy series starring the man recently voted 'Most Promising Artist of 1991' by the Variety Club of Great Britain (s) (590735).
- 8.05 Murder She Wrote: Shear Mystery. Angela Lansbury stars as the novelist Jessica Fletcher who travels to Texas for a family wedding and becomes embroiled in murder when the bridegroom-to-be meets an untimely end (s) (193538).



Polynesian romance: Jason Connery and Vivien Tan (9.00pm)

- 9.00 The Other Side of Paradise. CHOICE: This four-part mini-series set in the South Pacific looks off with an episode that is disappointingly light on sunsets, waving palms and escapist frolicking-in-the-waves scenes. There are, however, many beautiful people to delight the eyes, with Jason Connery and his entourage of females all looking terrific in 1990s designer versions of pre-war fashions. Based on a Noel Barber best-seller, it's a steamy story of an English doctor (Connery), who arrives on a South Sea island, falls in love with two women at once, and escapes frolicking-in-the-waves scenes. There are, however, many beautiful people to delight the eyes, with Jason Connery and his entourage of females all looking terrific in 1990s designer versions of pre-war fashions. Based on a Noel Barber best-seller, it's a steamy story of an English doctor (Connery), who arrives on a South Sea island, falls in love with two women at once, and escapes frolicking-in-the-waves scenes. 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